

The Hongkong Telegraph.

(ESTABLISHED 1821.)

NEW SERIES No. 5717

英光三月二十日四十三號

\$30 PER ANNUM.

SINGLE COPY, 10 CENTS.

Banks.

YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED.

CAPITAL PAID-UP Yen 24,000,000

RESERVE FUNDS 15,550,000

Branches and Agencies.

TOKIO, CHEFOO, TIEN-TSIN, PEKIN, NEW-CHEW-HANG, DALNY, PORT-ARTHUR, AN-TUNG, LIO-YANG, MUKDEN, TIE-LING, CHANG-CHUN, HANKOW.

Head Office—YOKOHAMA.

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For 12 months 5% p.a.

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Shipping—Steamers.

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD,

BREMEN.

IMPERIAL GERMAN MAIL LINES.

FOR

STEAMERS.

TO SAIL

KUDAT and SANDAKAN { "BORNEO" TUESDAY,
Capt. F. Sembill 9 A.M., 17th March.SHANGHAI, NAGASAKI, KOBE { "PRINZ REGENT LUFTFOLD" WEDNESDAY,
Capt. H. Kirchner 25th March.MANILA, NEW GUINEA, BRIS-
BANE, SYDNEY and MEL- { "MANILA" THURSDAY,
Capt. J. Menssen 5 P.M., 26th March.

BOURNE.

NAPLES, GENOA, ALGIERS, GIBRALTAR, SOUTHAMPTON, ANTWERP and HAMBURG { "PRINZ LUDWIG" FRIDAY,
Capt. F. v. Binsen 5 P.M., 27th March.YOKOHAMA and KOBE { "PRINZ WALDEMAR" About FRIDAY,
Capt. W. v. Sended 3rd April.

For further Particulars, apply to

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD.
MELCHERS & CO.

GENERAL AGENTS, HONGKONG & CHINA.

Hongkong, 13th March, 1908.

WEST RIVER BRITISH STEAMSHIP
COMPANIES.

HONGKONG-WUCHOW LINE.

THE Steamers "LINTAN" and "SAN-UI" SAIL FROM HONGKONG TWICE A WEEK AND COMPLETE THE ROUND TRIP IN 5 DAYS. These steamers have Excellent Saloon Accommodation, and are Lighted Throughout by Electricity.

THE CLIMATE ON THE WEST RIVER DURING THE WINTER MONTHS IS VERY FINE AND EXHILARATING.

For further information apply to— BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,
AGENTS,
WEST RIVER BRITISH S.S. COMPANIES
Hongkong, 2nd November, 1907.REGULAR HONGKONG-CANTON LINE OF
STEAMERS

OF THE

COMPAGNIE FRANCAISE DES INDIES ET DE L'EXTREME ORIENT.

S.S. "PAUL BEAU," 1,900 tons, 14 knots.

S.S. "CHARLES HARDOUIN," 1,900 tons, 14 knots.

The speediest, most luxuriously appointed and punctual steamers on the line. Departure from Hongkong at 9.30 P.M. (Saturdays excepted).

Departure from Canton at 5.15 P.M. (Sundays excepted).

These superb steamers carrying the French Mail are fitted throughout with Electric Light and Fans and were specially built for this trade. Excellent cuisine. The Company's Wharf is at the end of Wing Lok Street (Tram Station).

Canton Agents—Messrs. E. Pasquet & Co.

For further particulars, please apply to—

BARRETTO & CO.,
Agents.

Hongkong, 5th April, 1907.

REGULAR THREE-WEEKLY SERVICE
BETWEEN
JAVA, CHINA, AND JAPAN.

Steamer.	From	Expected on or about	Will leave for	On or about
TJIMAHI.....	JAVA	First half Mar.	JAVA	Second half Mar.
TJIBODAS ...	JAVA	First half Mar.	JAPAN	First half Mar.
TJILATJAP...	JAVA	Second half Mar.	JAVA	Second half Mar.
TJIPANAS ...	JAPAN	Second half Mar.	JAVA	Second half Mar.
TJIKINI	JAPAN	Second half Mar.	JAVA	First half April
TJILIWONG.	JAVA	First half April	JAPAN	

The Steamers are all fitted throughout with Electric Light and have Accommodation for a limited number of Saloon Passengers, and will take Cargo to all Netherland India Ports on through Bills of Lading.

For Particulars of Freight and Passage, apply to

JAVA-CHINA-JAPAN LIJN.

Telephone No. 375,

YORK BUILDINGS, 1st floor,

Hongkong, 29th February, 1908.

[16]

Dentistry.

TSIN TING,
LATEST METHODS OF DENTISTRY,
STUDY AT NO. 14, D'AGUILAR STREET:
REASONABLE FEES.
Consult for Free.Dr. M. H. CHAUN,
THE LATEST METHODS
of the
AMERICAN SYSTEM OF DENTISTRY
59, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL
From the University of Pennsylvania, U.S.A.
Hongkong, 16th April, 1908.

[19]

Intimations.

THE YOKOHAMA DOCK CO., LTD.

No. 1 DOCK.

Length inside 514 ft. Width of entrance, top 95 ft.; bottom 75 ft. Water on blocks, 27.5 ft. Time to pump out, 4 hours.

No. 2 DOCK.

Length inside, 875 ft. Width of entrance, top 80.5 ft.; bottom 45.8 ft. Water on blocks, 36.5 ft. Time to pump out, 2 hours.

THESE DOCKS are conveniently situated in Yokohama harbour and the attention of Captains and Engineers is respectfully called to the advantages offered for Docking and repairing Vessels and Machinery of every description.

The plant and tools are of recent patterns for dealing quickly and cheaply with work and a large stock of material is always at hand, (plates and angles all being tested by Lloyds' surveyors).

Two powerful Twin Screw Tugboats are available for taking Vessels in or out of Dock, and for taking Sailing Vessels in or out of the bay. The floating derrick is capable of lifting 35 tons.

Steam Launches of Steel or Wood, Wagons, Steel Buildings and Roofs, Bridge Work, and all kinds of Machinery are made on the premises.

Tenders will be made up when required and the workmanship and material will be guaranteed.

The cost of Docking, and repair work, will be found to compare favourably with that of any port in the world.

Telephone: Nos. 376, 508, or 681.

Telegrams, "Dock, Yokohama," Codes A. B. C. 4th and 5th Edt.

Liebers, Scotts, A. I. and Watkins.

Yokohama, May 23rd, 1908.

COSMOPOLITANISM OF
SHANGHAI.Shanghai is the most truly cosmopolitan city in the world; for Paris, after all, is mainly French; London, after all, is mainly English; New York, after all, is mainly American. Shanghai has its French hotels, its German Club, its English Country Club, its race track, its Russian Bank, its Japanese mercantile houses, its American post office. It is ruled by a council of Englishmen, Germans and Americans. It is policed by English bobbies, Irishmen, Sikhs from India, and Chinese. On the Bubbling Well road of a sunny afternoon, where the latest thing in motor cars weaves through the line of smart carriages, you may see Spaniard elbowing Filipino, Portuguese jostling Parsee, Austrian chattering with Bavarian; and they all talk, gamble, drink and buy in pidgin English. This settlement of 15,000 Europeans, living apart from that public opinion which compels the maintenance of a social standard in every European country, and indifferent to local public opinion which keeps up a certain curious standard among the Chinese themselves, seems to have practically no standard at all. The problem of every decent American or Englishman who finds himself established in business is whether he, dare bring his wife and family and introduce them into circles so degraded that families disintegrate and children grow up under disheartening influences. The heavy drinking of the Chinese ports is proverbial, yet the drinking seems little more than an incident in a city where the social atmosphere is tainted and altogether unwholesome.—Samuel Werner in *Success*.CHINESE LEARN TO USE
TOWELS.

The following report regarding the importation of towels into China is transmitted by Mr. Wilbur T. Gracey, Consul at Tsingtau:

Tsingtau is the largest importer of towels in China, and during 1906 140,625 dozen honeycomb and buckaback towels passed through the customs at this port. The total importation of this class of towels into China amounted to 752,695 dozen during 1906, in addition to 924,242 dozen of other varieties. Of the buckaback, 231,957 dozen were supplied from Japan, which country also exported to China 627,213 dozen of other varieties of towels and toweling. Great Britain supplied 232,782 dozen and Hongkong (probably originating in Great Britain) 193,103 dozen of the buckaback quality, and of other kinds Great Britain supplied 233,324 dozen.

It will be seen by these statistics that the Chinese people are becoming large buyers of the cheapest quality of foreign towels. The varieties found on this market are mostly small, selling at retail at 10 cents Mexican (about 48 cents gold) each; or from 90 cents to \$1 Mexican (\$1 Mexican equals 45.3 cents gold) per dozen. The entire Province of Shantung appears to have been supplied through Tsingtau. Several Chinese and two or three German firms are interested in the importation, the former making their purchases on the Shanghai market and the latter importing direct from Japan or Europe. The British variety of towel sells at a slightly higher price (15 cents each) is somewhat larger, and of a thicker and better quality. The demand for this class of goods and the importation from Japan has increased enormously during the past few years. The importation from Japan in 1903 of the buckaback variety was 63,395 dozen, which in 1906 increased to 231,957 dozen, while the imports of other varieties have increased from 273,118 dozen in 1903 to 627,213 dozen in 1906.

While it would probably be impossible for American manufacturers to compete with the Japanese on the cheaper grade of goods, owing to the advantages of Asiatic labour and nearness to the market, yet as regards the better qualities supplied by the British mills there should be an excellent opportunity for competition. There is a call for cheap towelling in China and by catering to the wants of this trade Americans can certainly secure a portion thereof.

No Claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns, and all Goods remaining undelivered after the 16th of March, will be subject to rent.

All broken, chafed, and damaged Goods are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined on the 16th of March, at 9.30 A.M.

All claims must reach us before the 20th of March, 1908, or they will not be recognized.

No Fire Insurance will be effected.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by the undersigned.

Consignees.

"BEN" OF LINE STEAMERS.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNERS.

S.S. "BENDORAN."

CONSIGNNEES of Cargo are hereby informed that all Goods are being landed at their risk into the hazardous and/or extra hazardous Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd., whence and/or from the wharves delivery may be obtained.

No Claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns, and all Goods remaining undelivered after the 16th inst., will be subject to rent.

All Claims against the Steamer must be presented to the Undersigned on or before the 24th inst., or they will not be recognized.

All broken, chafed, and damaged Goods are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined on the 16th inst., at 11 A.M.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by GIBB, LIVINGSTON & CO., Agents, Hongkong, 9th March, 1908. [10]

BOSTON STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNERS.

STEAMSHIP "REMONT," FROM TACOMA, VICTORIA, YOKOHAMA, KOBE, MOI, SHANGHAI AND MANILA.

THE above Steamer having arrived, Consignees of Cargo are hereby requested to send in their Bills of Lading for Countersignature, and to take immediate delivery of their Goods from alongside.

Cargo impeding the discharge of the Vessel will be landed and stored at Consignees' risk and expense.

No Fire Insurance will be effected by us in any case whatever.

DODWELL & CO., LIMITED,

Agents, Hongkong, 10th March, 1908. [11-20]

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD, BREMEN, IMPERIAL GERMAN MAIL LINE.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNNEES.

THE Steamship

"MANILA," having arrived, Consignees of Cargo are hereby informed that their Goods, with the exception of Opium, Treasure and Valuables, are being landed and stored at their risk into the hazardous and/or extra hazardous Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited, at Kowloon, whence delivery may be obtained.

No Claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns, and all Goods remaining undelivered after the 16th of March, will be subject to rent.

All broken, chafed, and damaged Goods are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined on the 16th of March, at 9.30 A.M.

All claims must reach us before the 20th of March, 1908, or they will not be recognized.

No Fire Insurance will be effected.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by the undersigned.

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD, MELCHERS & CO., Agents, Hongkong, 9th March, 1908. [12]

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD, BREMEN, IMPERIAL GERMAN MAIL LINE.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNNEES.

THE Steamship

"PRINZESS ALICE," having arrived, Consignees of Cargo are hereby informed that their Goods, with the exception of Opium, Treasure and Valuables, are being landed and stored in their risk into the hazardous and/or extra hazardous Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited, at Kowloon, whence delivery may be obtained.

Optional Cargo will be forwarded unless notice to the contrary be given before WEDNESDAY, the 11th of March; at Noon.

No Claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns, and all Goods remaining undelivered after the 16th of March, will be subject to rent.

All broken, chafed, and damaged Goods are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined on the 18th of March, at 9.30 A.M.

All claims must reach us before the 22nd of March, 1908, or they will not be recognized.

No Fire Insurance will be effected.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by the Undersigned.

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD, MELCHERS & CO., Agents, Hongkong, 11th March, 1908. [13]

INDO-CHINA STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED.

FROM CALCUTTA, PENANG AND SINGAPORE.

THE Company's Steamship

"KUMSANG," having arrived from the above Ports, Consignees of Cargo are hereby informed that their Goods will be delivered from alongside.

Cargo impeding the discharge or remaining on board after 4 P.M., the 16th inst., will be landed at Consignees' risk and expense.

No Fire Insurance will be effected.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by JARDINE, MATHESON & CO., LTD., General Managers, Hongkong, 13th March, 1908. [14]

LEE YEE HAIR DRESSING SALOON.

HAS ALWAYS ON HAND

CIGARS, CIGARETTES

AND

TOILET REQUISITES

Intimation.

Wm.
powell,
2d.,

ALEXANDRA
BUILDINGS.

Dress
Fabrics
for
Travelling
Costumes.

TWEEDS,
SERGES,
CLOTHS.

"The House
for
Novelties."

COLOURED
DRESS
LINENS
FOR
DECK WEAR.

Splendid
Ranges
New Goods
now showing.

W.M. POWELL,
LTD.,
Des Vaux Road,
and
28, Queen's Road,
HONGKONG.

Public Companies

NOTICE.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

A SPECIAL MEETING of the Members will be held on TUESDAY, the 17th March, 1908, at 4:30 P.M. in the Old Chamber of Commerce Room, City Hall, to nominate a Member to fill the place of the Hon. Mr. E. A. HAWKES during six months' leave of absence granted to him by His Excellency the Governor.

Notice in writing of the names of candidates, and of their Proposers and Seconders, to be lodged with the Secretary at least 48 hours before the time appointed for holding the General Meeting.

By Order,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

Hongkong, 12th March, 1908. [311]

THE CHINA AND MANILA STEAM-SHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE TWENTY-FIFTH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of SHARE-HOLDERS in the above Company will be held at the Company's Office, St. George's Building, 6 Connaught Road, Victoria, on SATURDAY, the 21st March, 1908, at Noon, for the purpose of receiving a Statement of Accounts and the Report of the General Managers for the year ending 31st December, 1907, and electing a Consulting Committee and Auditors.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from WEDNESDAY, the 18th March, to SATURDAY, the 21st March, both days inclusive.

SHEWAN, TOME & CO.,
General Managers.

Hongkong, 5th March, 1908. [290]

CHINA SUGAR REFINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE THIRTIETH ORDINARY ANNUAL MEETING of the SHARE-HOLDERS of the above Company will be held at the Offices of the General Agents on THURSDAY, the 26th March, at Noon, for the purpose of receiving the Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1907.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 13th to 26th March, both days inclusive.

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO., LTD.,
General Agents.

Hongkong, 6th March, 1908. [291]

LUZON SUGAR REFINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE TWENTY-SIXTH ORDINARY ANNUAL MEETING of the SHARE-HOLDERS of the above Company will be held at the Offices of the General Agents on THURSDAY, the 26th March, at 12:30 P.M. for the purpose of receiving the Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1907.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 13th to 26th March, both days inclusive.

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO., LTD.,
General Agents.

Hongkong, 6th March, 1908. [295]

NOTICES OF FIRMS.

NOTICE.

Under instructions from the General Managers, Mr. F. J. ABBOTT will be in charge of the Company's business at this Port during my absence from the Colony on leave.

E. A. HEWITT,
Superintendent.

Hongkong, 9th March, 1908. [300]

INTERNATIONAL SLEEPING CAR
and

EXPRESS TRAINS CO

(THE
GREAT TRANS-SIBERIAN ROUTE
TO EUROPE.)

HAVING been appointed AGENTS for the above Company, we shall be pleased to give any information as to rates of passage, &c., in connection with above.

SHEWAN, TOME & CO.,
Agents.

Hongkong, 31st July, 1907. [47]

A BROKEN-DOWN SYSTEM.

This is a condition (described) in which doctors give up the cure, but which few of them really understand. It is simply weakness—break-down, as it were, of the vital forces that sustain the system. No matter what may be the cause, the disease always shows certain symptoms which run the same, the most prominent being sleeplessness, sense of prostration or weariness, depression of spirits, and loss of appetite, and, in many cases, diarrhoea. Now, what alone is absolutely essential in all such cases is infatuated vitality—your

VITAL STRENGTH & ENERGY

to throw off these morbid feelings, and experience proves that as night succeeds the day, this may be more certain than the rising of the sun.

THE NEW FRENCH REMEDY

THERAPION NO. 3

than by any other known combination. So far as it is taken in accordance with the printed directions accompanying it, will the shattered

be restored to health.

THE EXPIRING LAMP OF LIFE

LIGHTED UP AFRESH,

and a new existence imparted in place of what had so lately been given up.

This wonderful medicament is purely vegetable and innocuous, is agreeable to the taste—suitable for all constitutions and conditions, in either sex, and of all ages, and may be used in any disease, where the main features are those of debility, that will not speedily and permanently benefit by this new and progressive remedy. It may be easily carried into every part of the body, and into every organ of the body, everything that had arrested it for this wide-spread and numerous class of human ailments.

THERAPION, is sold by

Chowdhury throughout the world. It is the first

20-packet. Purchasers should be sure to have

"THERAPION" appears on British Government

Stamp in white letters on a red ground.

It is a genuine French product, and without which it is a farce.

Sold by all Chemists.

Hongkong, 3rd January, 1908. [69]

Auctions.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned have received instructions to sell by

PUBLIC AUCTION,

FOR ACCOUNT OF THE CONCERNED,

MONDAY,

the 16th March, 1908, at 11 A.M., at their

Sales Rooms, No. 8, Des Vaux Road,

corner of Ice-House Street,

A QUANTITY OF

WINES AND SPIRITS,

AND

99 Cases ORANGE MEAT.

TERMS:—As usual.

HUGHES & HOUGH,

Auctioneers.

Hongkong, 13th March, 1908. [318]

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned have received instructions

to sell by

PUBLIC AUCTION,

FOR ACCOUNT OF THE CONCERNED,

MONDAY,

the 18th March, 1908, at 11 A.M., at their

Sales Rooms, No. 8, Des Vaux Road,

corner of Ice-House Street,

A QUANTITY OF

SUNDRY

HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE,

AND

ONE CIGARETTE MAKING MACHINE.

TERMS:—As usual.

HUGHES & HOUGH,

Auctioneers.

Hongkong, 13th March, 1908. [319]

THE BANGALORE MURDERS.

A SERIES OF GHASTLY CRIMES.

Further revelations are published by the *Hindu Herald*, concerning the series of ghastly crimes that were recently perpetrated at Bangalore. The murders were committed, it appears, by youths.

The boys confessed before the police that four more bodies were buried in Ulsoor and the City Police reported this to the Cantonment Police. The latter moved the district magistrate of the C. and M. Station to grant permission to exhume the interred bodies. A mass of facts was placed before the magistrate along with the confessional statements of the boys, and permission obtained to exhume the interred bodies on Thursday morning. On Thursday morning the accused were marched to Ulsoor and in the presence of the City Police and the Cantonment Police the work of exhuming the interred bodies commenced.

TWO SKELETONS.

At Ulsoor down the Temple Road, and in a house pointed out by the accused, excavation began first. One of the accused directed the men digging to work at a particular spot. After digging 6ft. deep, two skeletons were discovered lying side by side. One of them the accused mentioned to be that of one Vishwanurthi, a youth of twenty-two and a grandson of Polipalli Subbathetti, a rich Komati of Bangalore City. A year and a half back the boy Vishwanurthi disappeared from his house and was not found till now. He was wearing on his person jewels worth Rs. 2,000 and the parents suspected some foul play. They complained to the police and offered a reward of one hundred rupees to any one giving information leading to the discovery of their son. This reward was announced in the *Standard* column.

One of the accused said that Vishwanurthi was induced to leave the city on the promise of an introduction to a Eurasian girl at Ulsoor. A house was fitted for his reception with neat furniture and fruits and drinks. While expecting the promised introduction, the youth was asked to take some drink. Brandy mixed with strichine and arsenic was given him. When the innocent youth complained of a burning sensation, chloroform was administered, as a remedy to remove the burning sensation. When the youth became quite unconscious a knife was employed and the youth murdered in cold blood. The other boy, who was lying by his side in the same grave, was identified as one Krishniah, a youth of eighteen years, and a football player.

Krishniah was murdered not on account of any jewels, as he wore none, but for fear of his exposing the murderers. This victim was a friend of Vishwanurthi, it is said, and he always used to accompany him. They gave several chances to the victim to avoid Vishwanurthi's company, but as he could not be got rid of, he was also trapped, killed, and buried with his comrade.

AN UNFORTUNATE GOLDSMITH.

At Joggalya, a suburb of Ulsoor, another body was recovered and this the accused mentioned to be that of one Govindachari, a goldsmith of about twenty years of age. About a year and a half ago, certain jewellery were offered to him for sale. But some time after the goldsmith came to return them on the ground that he heard that they came into their possession by foul means. The same proceedings were adopted and he was killed.

The victim is confessed to have been buried while yet alive and under the influence of chloroform, a most cruel incident in the tragedy.

There are other cases of murder having been committed by the accused and two of them relate to dancing girls. These girls, the boys confess, they killed, removed their jewels and threw them into a tank. One of the dancing girls, named Lakshmi, they say, was thrown into the milk tank in the city, and the other girl into the Nimpige tank. The girl was a resident of Ulsoor and was brought into the city and murdered in Chamaraikan in the building where formerly Sirirama Medical Hall was. She was inveigled to this building and given brandy mixed with arsenic to drink and when she began to cry out, chloroform was administered. They then cut her throat, removed all her jewellery, tied her up in a sack with sawdust, and carrying the sack in a sedan-chair threw it into the milk tank. Three days after this body was found floating in the tank and the police held an inquest. But in the inquest the victim was not identified, nor claimed by any one and she was disposed of as "Bevara." But the *post mortem* examination disclosed that she had died from the effects of poison. The police suspected foul play but were not able to find the author till now.

CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE.

The criminal intelligence of the murderers has been commented upon. In one case as soon as they murdered a boy, they took train to Robertsooip, after burying him and telegraphed to his father in his name that he was going to Madras. They invariably sold or mortgaged their booty and have faced the police when confronted with difficulties. They carried an air of respectability and even succeeded in kidnaping a boy from Madras, but were not able to attain their object owing to unforeseen circumstances. Three other dancing girls, it is said, were inveigled into the building opposite to the Victoria Hospital, where one body was exhumed the other day and kept there for three days, but as their comrades could not in time supply them with poisons and other aids, they had to forego their victims. Further inquiry is proceeding.

NOTICE.

THE Public are hereby informed that no change has been made in the Rates of Subscription to the *Hongkong Telegraph* and that we are warned against paying more than TEN CENTS (tofta) per Single Copy.

THE MANAGER,

Hongkong Telegraph Co.

Hongkong, 1st September 1908. [61]

Intimations.

DONE BY TRYING.

Nobody can tell what he can do till he tries. When a thing ought to be done the modern spirit moves us to keep working away at it until it is done. In the face of this idea the "impossible" vanishes. Where there's a will, there's a way. "If we could but rob cod liver oil of its sickening taste and smell and then combine it with two or three other ingredients we should possess the best remedy in the world for certain diseases that are now practically incurable." So said a famous English physician twenty-five years ago. "But it will never be done," he added. "You can, no more turn cod liver oil into a pleasant palatable medicine, than you can turn the Codfish itself into a Bird of Paradise." Yet he lived to admit that id

WAMPOL'S PREPARATION

the "impossible" had been accomplished. It is palatable as honey and contains all the nutritive and curative properties of Pure Cod Liver Oil, extracted by us from fresh cod-livers,

combined with the Compound Syrup of Hypophosphites, Extracts of Malt and Wild Cherry.

This remedy is freed from the bad peculiarities Dr. Frothingham so detested, and it is precisely the splendid medicine he wished for. Use it freely and confidently for Anemia, Hysteria, Wasting Complaints, Blood Impurities, Asthma, and Throat and Lung Troubles,

Dr. W. H. B. Aikins, F. R. C. P., London.

M. D. C. M., Victoria University, M. B., Toronto University.—Consulting Physician to Home for Incurables, Physician to Toronto General Hospital, says: "I am much pleased to state that the results from using Wampole's Preparation of Cod Liver Oil have been uniformly satisfactory; it appealed to me as being prepared according to correct scientific principles." It increases the appetite and influences the digestion of food; it is delicious to take, will not disappoint you and is effective from the first dose. "It represents the dawn of progress." At chemists everywhere.

WAMPOL'S PREPARATION

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combined with the Compound Syrup of Hypophosphites, Extracts of Malt and Wild Cherry.

Intimation.

A. S. WATSON & CO.,
LIMITED.THE GREAT
POPULARITY

or

Watson's

E

VERY OLD LIQUEUR

SCOTCH

W H I S K Y

HAS BEEN ATTAINED BY ITS

Consistent Excellence

or

Quality.

IT IS A

PURE MALT WHISKY

or

GENUINE AGE

AND

FINE MELLOW

FLAVOUR.

Per Case - - - \$16.50

A. S. WATSON & CO.,
LIMITED,

WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

ALEXANDRA BUILDINGS,
Hongkong, 9th March, 1908.

favours the alarmists is that in rate of construction we are falling behind the Two-Power standard. That is due mainly to the very size of our navy, which does not admit of the proportionately rapid increase of a younger and smaller fleet. But there are, as Lord Brassey says, "advantages in holding our hand," even from the purely naval point of view. But there are other facts which cannot be excluded from the consideration of this question. Quality is at least as important as size. The protection assured to a nation by the maintenance of conditions which nourish instead of stunting its manhood, and develop instead of depressing its capacities, is not less sure or less valuable than that afforded by any number of battleships.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

MR. Bryan has announced his platform for the forthcoming Presidential election before the Nebraska Committee.

PLOT A2 in the schedule of allotments of the Wong-wei-chong Recreation Ground has been allotted to the Modern Recreation Club on Sundays.

It is stated that Siam is considering legislation for the better protection of children, and efforts are being made to establish a reformatory school at Bangkok.—Ed., H.A.T.

It is reported from Tientsin that, in order to protect the interests of the Chinese in Port Arthur, the Waiwupu proposes to appoint a Chinese official to that port, but that the Japanese Minister in Peking strongly objects to the appointment.

HONGKONG, Canton and Macao Steamboat Company's shares have been in good demand throughout the week, consequent upon the raising of freights and passenger rates on the river, and from \$28 to \$29 has been paid, and there are further buyers at \$29.

His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint Mr. H. A. W. Slade to be a member of the Sanitary Board, Medical Board and Governing Body of Queen's College, during the absence or leave of the Honourable Mr. E. A. Hewitt, or until further notice.

SUDARAS Major Ahmed Din, Hongkong and Singapore Battalion, Royal Garrison Artillery, has been appointed honorary aide-de-camp to the Governor with effect from 12th inst., vice Jemadar Muhammad Khan, 12th Duke of Connaught's Own Baluchi, vacated.

INTELLIGENCE from Peking states that, in reply to a Note from the Waiwupu concerning the agreement between the Japanese Government and the Great Northern Telegraph Company, the Japanese Minister says that the contract has no connection with the coast line of China.

HIS Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint, provisionally and subject to His Majesty's pleasure, the Honourable Mr. Henry Keswick to be an un-official member of the Executive Council, during the absence or leave of the Honourable Mr. E. A. Hewitt or until further notice.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES (IN ADVANCE).
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Single Copies, Daily, ten cents; Weekly, twenty-five cents.

The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 1908.

THE COST OF THE NAVY.

In the midst of the whirligig of rumours now happily disposed of with regard to the Navy Estimates, it is very satisfactory to be able to turn to Lord Brassey's admirably precise and clear statement in the *London Times* of the actual facts of the naval situation. Here, at least, we are on firm ground. The *Morning Leader* holds that Liberals have never grudged any money that may be requisite for the maintenance of an adequate fleet. But what is an adequate fleet? It replies to its own question thus: A definition is clearly essential; our main complaint against the late Tory Government's administration was that they never would answer this question—they went on spending more and more money on the navy, each year without any apparent objective at all. One of Lord Brassey's chief criticisms of naval outlay in the past is really directed against this indiscriminate and empirical expenditure. He quotes Sir George Clarke's dictum that "the waste of money in the British navy upon vessels which were never suited for any reasonably probable requirement of war has been enormous." To end that sort of expenditure is one of the reasons of a Liberal Government's existence. It is perfectly evident from Lord Brassey's figures that we have nothing at all to fear immediately. We have 52 relatively new battleships of 77,000 tons against the 43 of 450,000 tons possessed by France and Germany together; and even supposing that all foreign programmes were carried out, for which there is scarcely any precedent, we should have 48 against their 47, with 754,000 tons against 646,000 tons, in 1908. The one serious fact which

THE "TATSU MARU."

THE STATUS OF COLOWAN.

APPREHENDED CHINESE AGGRESSION.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

Macau, 13th March, 1908.

From all I can gather, the *Tatsu Maru* affair is fraught with a great deal of anxiety to the local Government. As an outcome of the already protracted negotiations I understand that the Chinese Government has raised the question as to the status of Colowan. The Wai-wu-pu had called upon the Government of Macao to establish valid proofs of Portuguese sovereignty over the island, failing which it is apprehended China may seek to exercise the power of annexation. Diplomatic negotiations are now in progress over the question. In the meantime, fearing the possibility of an aggressive demonstration, I understand the Portuguese garrison at Colowan has been strengthened. The local authorities are said to be prepared for surprise.

[The above news, of somewhat serious import, fully corroborates the special despatch, printed in our last evening's issue, from a correspondent at Canton.—Ed., H.A.T.]

ANOTHER MONSTER MEETING.

JAPANESE BOYCOTT SCHEME.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

Canton, 13th March, 1908.

In connection with the question of the arrest of the a.s. *Tatsu Maru*, a second mass meeting was held yesterday at the headquarters of the Canton Self-Government League and the number of people present was far in excess of the number attending the first meeting, of which yesterday's was an adjournment, held on the 7th instant. The building was considerably overcrowded, and many could not obtain seats in the hall.

At this meeting, in spite of the enormous attendance, there was no noise or disorder of any kind and all present listened with great and close attention to the various speakers, who delivered vigorous speeches, touching in detail upon all the points concerning the arrest of the Japanese steamer.

A telegram received from Shanghai was read before the assembly, which recorded the people's approval of the League's action, and the telegram was received with applause.

It was agreed, by the majority, that an investigation should be made to ascertain the different articles imported from Japan and the number of Japanese instructors employed in the various educational and other institutions in Canton with the object of formulating a scheme for steps to be taken to bring about a boycott, should the diplomatic negotiations fail to bring satisfaction to the Chinese people. The meeting commenced at 1 p.m. and was not ended until a little after 5 p.m.

At this meeting a deputation was also selected to proceed to the port of Wuchow to make arrangements in connection with the floating of the proposed shipping company. So close are negotiations, guarded that, so far, no definite particulars have transpired from official sources in regard to the question. However, the Canton paper *Kwoh Se Po* had, in to-day's issue, the following telegraphic intelligence that is reported to have been exchanged between the Canton Viceroy, H. E. Chang, and the Central authorities:—The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has twice wired to the Canton Viceroy instructing him to at once release the seized Japanese steamer for the purpose of maintaining the harmonious relations between the two countries. On receipt of the above telegraphic order, H. E. the Viceroy was greatly agitated and, in reply, dispatched a telegraphic memorial to the Throne tendering his resignation from the Viceroyalty of the Liang Kwang Provinces, to which dispatch the Central Government seems willing to accede and is now proposing to appoint the present Canton Commander-in-chief, Chou Ping-chik, to temporarily take up the post.

Great excitement is now prevailing in this city over the news among the Chinese community, and the public are anxiously awaiting further developments.

As the people here are greatly agitated over the question of the arrest of the *Tatsu Maru*, it is feared that some ignorant individuals might attempt to create disturbances, so some private individuals have decided to issue circulars exhorting the general public to take matters calmly and to deal with the case in as quiet a manner as possible.

A CONTEMPORARY coins a new, and really expressive, word in a note commenting on the position in the Afghani country. It says: "It is known for certain that all the border clauses are very short of ammunition, although rifles are believed to be fairly 'painless' everywhere."

"Painless" just describes the character of a rifle in the hands of a stark thief of the border land. It is a word that ought to go down to the ages in company with *Stollenbrotzel*.—*Singapore Free Press*.

THE HONGKONG AND KOWLOON WHARF AND GODOWN CO., LTD.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The twenty-first ordinary annual meeting of shareholders of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd., was held in the City Hall, this afternoon, for the purpose of receiving the report of the directors and the statement of accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1907. The Hon. Mr. Henry Keswick (chairman of Directors) presided. There were also present:—The Hon. Sir Paul Chater, Messrs. G. Friesland, A. Fuchs, E. Shellim, A. S. D. Cousland, G. H. Medhurst, C. S. Gubbay, (Directors), the Hon. Mr. E. Osborne (Secretary), Messrs. H. W. Looker, T. F. Hough, W. E. Clarke, Frank Smyth, Henry Humphreys, E. S. Kadoorie, W. H. Wickham, Ellis and Capt. Brown.

The Secretary read the report convening the meeting.

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen.—With your permission I propose to take the report and accounts as read. From the accounts presented you will learn that there was a large decrease in our profits last year, but in view of the very adverse conditions of trade during that year, and in view of the crippling effect of the 1906 typhoon, nothing else could have been expected. The report shows in detail the different items of expenditure involved by that typhoon; you will recognise, however, that the total outlay is large, it cannot be regarded as representing an entire loss for the reason that the major portion has been spent in giving us new wharves, new lighters, and improved godowns in place of partially worn and therefore less valuable assets. In view of this expenditure and the future outlay which has still to be met, your directors cannot recommend the payment of a larger final dividend than 3 per cent, making a total of 7 per cent for the year. This is a time for husbanding our resources especially as we may shortly expect further competition and we must be, as we are, prepared to meet it. From its very beginning our Company has had severe competition to face, has met it and overcome it, and when you consider that our clients are also to a large extent shareholders you may look forward with equanimity to the future. We shall undoubtedly have hard times, but our business is on sound lines and with the improvement and increase of the trade of Hongkong, which is bound to come, we may reasonably look for more prosperous results. The completion of the Canton-Kowloon Railway will be of interest to us, chiefly as a link to the future Hankow-Canton lines; your directors have discussed with the Government the preliminaries for establishing sidings into our property, and it is inconceivable that the Colonial Railways paid by for Hongkong ratepayers will not afford every facility to the Hongkong-owned enterprise. Before proposing the adoption of the report and accounts I will be pleased to answer any questions you may wish to put.

There were no questions asked.

The Chairman proposed the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. McCorquodale seconded.

Carried.

Mr. Hough, in seconding, said: I rise to second the adoption of the report and accounts. After the explicit manner in which they have been dealt with, and the remarks from our Chairman, nothing I can say about them would be necessary. I think we can place every confidence, as in the past, in the hands of our directors. With those few remarks I beg to second the adoption of the report and accounts.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Clarke moved the reelection of Mr. G. H. Medhurst, and Mr. C. R. Lehmann as directors.

Mr. Humphreys seconded.

Agreed.

Mr. Smith moved that the appointment of Hon. Mr. H. Keswick, Messrs. G. Friesland, A. Fuchs, E. Shellim, and A. Cousland as directors be confirmed.

Mr. Kadoorie seconded.

Agreed.

Mr. Wickham moved, and Mr. Ellis seconded, that Messrs. W. H. Potts and A. D. Gourdin, be re-appointed auditors, and the motion was carried.

Mr. McCorquodale seconded.

Agreed.

Mr. Smith moved that the appointment of Hon. Mr. H. Keswick, Messrs. G. Friesland, A. Fuchs, E. Shellim, and A. Cousland as directors be confirmed.

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Mr. McCorquodale seconded.

Agreed.

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Mr. McCorquodale seconded.

Agreed.

GEO. FENWICK & CO., LTD.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The nineteenth ordinary general meeting of shareholders of Geo. Fenwick & Co., Ltd., was held in the Hongkong Hotel, at noon to-day, for the purpose of receiving the report of the directors and electing director and auditor.

Mr. A. Rodger occupied the chair. Others present were:—Messrs. G. K. Haxton (director), John L. Andrew (general manager), W. Parlane, H. Percy Smith, J. Forbes, J. McCorquodale and J. Rodger.

The notice calling the meeting was read by the General Manager.

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen.—The report and statement of accounts having been to your hands for some days, I will, with your permission, adopt the usual custom and take them as read. Your directors regret exceedingly that the result of the year's working under review, has proved so unsatisfactory and unremunerative. We had anticipated a profit on two large stern-wheel steamers which we built. Unfortunately, we were very much disappointed in this respect, as the result showed a loss of nearly \$20,000. This was caused by delay in the first instance, owing to a scarcity of labour, and secondly, by difficulties arising in getting these vessels to come up to the speed contracted for. Consequently, heavy claims were made for demurrage and further expense was incurred in making the necessary alterations. I am glad to say that we get a fair share of the usual work offering, both in the harbour and on shore, but on

Telegrams.

[Results]

Bus.
London, 13th March.

The Duma has voted M. Isolovsky's Bill and the conversion of Legation at Tokio to an Embassy.

M. Isolovsky said the difficulty which occurred in the relations in regard to commerce, fisheries and railways, showed that a lasting peace and the protection of Russian interests is only durable by re-casting relations with Japan; he contended that there was no result in the result of the war to prevent us, who required peace, from honourably holding out her hand to her former opponents; he was convinced that Japan desired sincere understanding.

Referring to network of international agreements in Far East, he described the Anglo-Russian Convention as a moral pledge for the maintenance of peace and of the permanence of Russia's new relations with Japan.

The Bill adopted; the Socialists dissenting.

Later.

The United States and Japan.
The correspondent of the *Times* in New York wired, at the dinner of the Japan Society, Nakashima said that the American-Japanese friendship was so cordial that it might be said an unwritten alliance.Canada.
Mr. J. A. British-Columbian, has been appointed Canadian Immigration Agent to Japan.The Governorship of Macedonia.
It is that the British proposal regarding the Governorship of Macedonia stipulates the position shall be similar to that of the ruler of Lebanon, and not removable without the consent of the Powers.

H. "KAIKURO" MARU.

Japanese steamer *Kaikuuro Maru*, which ran aground at Pine Tree Island on Monday night, refloated yesterday and is to be docked Tanjong Lingar for examination, says the *Port Free Press* of that inst. She was en route from Rangoon to Yokohama with a load of rice.

A steamer was floated off at midnight on Tuesday after discharging about 270 tons of coal. The lights were being abut the forepeak, reports Captain Saide, the ship is not.

Kaikuuro Maru is a ship of 1,073 tons, owned by K. Tomokura. The consignee is Mr. B. K. She is now at the wharf.

DUMPING A DEAD BODY.

AN EXPENSIVE PRACTICE

How Li Lo, a dust cart coolie, residing at Lo Leung Hang, attempted to barmoorie a dead body at Hung Hom last Thursday morning, in his efforts to get rid of the dead body, was despatched to Mr. H. C. Leland in the Police Court, yesterday morning. At about half-past seven o'clock that morning, the *lukong* was patrolling along the waterfront at Hung Hom when he saw defendant wheeling a dust cart in his direction. When he got to a certain spot, defendant stopped the cart, and started to shovel out the rubbish. Out of curiosity the *lukong* approached the cart, mainly to inspect operations, and on getting within a few feet he noticed a bundle fall from the cart. His suspicions were immediately aroused, for it was not about a week ago that the remains of a child, who had died from small-pox, was found by the police on this same spot. The *lukong* touched the defendant and pointed at the bundle, at the same time calling upon him to open it. Defendant had no other alternative, and, very gingerly, he unfastened the strings, revealing the corpse of a female infant. He was then arrested on a charge of "removing for burial a dead body without a permit."

Defendant denied the charge.

He stated that he found the bundle in the cart and he believed it was dumped there by some person.

Sergeant Watt, of Hung Hom Police Station, said that a few days before a corpse was found on this very spot, and he thought defendant had placed it there.

The Court asked what was the cause of death.

Sergeant Watt said small-pox.

The Court—And in this case?

The Sergeant did not know. The mortuary certificate had not arrived. He did not think, however, that death was due to any infectious disease as the body was quite clean.

The Court wanted the mortuary certificate to ascertain cause of death, and the case was remanded until to-day.

This morning, it was stated that the child had died from malarial fever. The Court said that defendant was undoubtedly the guilty party, and ordered him to pay a fine of \$200, or go to gaol for six months.

An aged coolie woman was sent to gaol for six weeks this morning, by Mr. Hareland, president, in the Police Court, for the injury of 178 pounds of coal belonging to the Mitsui Bussan Co. Ltd.

THE PERJURY TRIAL.
DEFENDANT DISCHARGED.

Mr. H. H. J. Gomperts gave his decision at the Police Court yesterday afternoon, after we had gone to press, in the case in which Chan Chun was charged with committing perjury, by swearing an affidavit that Lai Chi Chin and his family had left their residence in Caine Road on the 26th February and gone to Canton, when, as a matter of fact, Lai Chi Chin had never left the Colony. Mr. Gomperts found defendant not guilty and discharged him.

Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor, appeared for the prosecution. Mr. G. E. Morrell, of Messrs. Goldring, Barlow and Morrell, appeared for the defence.

Defendant was called to the stand and examined. He stated that when he made the declaration he thought Lai Chi Chin was about to leave the Colony. He believed it, because somebody told him so. He made no inquiries to find out if it was correct. Mr. Gomperts, in giving his decision, said that he had no desire to usurp the functions of a jury. In the exercise of his discretion he did not believe a jury would convict defendant on the evidence adduced, and decided as already stated.

OPIUM CONFERENCE AT PENANG.

A Perak journal, in a reference to the forthcoming anti-opium conference at Penang, makes the remark that "all who have the welfare of the large Chinese community at heart, would be very pleased indeed to know that no questionable method of raising revenue as is the case in respect of the Opium and Gambling Farms is to be abolished as speedily as possible in the trials and F.M.S. and be replaced by a new system whereby Government would exercise full control over the use of the pernicious drug, whilst substituting for the gambling revenue other means of supplying the needs of the public service."

The only point that calls for any remark in that sentence, says the *Singapore Free Press* in a leading article, is the expression that the Government should itself control the use of opium, and should look to some other source of revenue to supply the place of that of the gaming farms. It is the phrase "other source of revenue" in its general application that invites remark. It is to be observed that all excise revenues are ideal in this respect that their incidence on the population at large is altogether optional. And a man may determine for himself whether he may pay an excise tax or not by the simple process of consuming or refraining from consuming a specific excisable commodity. The theory that any Government goes on in fixing a rate of taxation on articles of excise is that a sufficient proportion of the population will consume such articles, and that to a sufficient degree to return an estimated revenue. Any increase of consumption of a particular commodity subject to excise—the rest of the Budget being assumed to be stable, and there being an assumed equilibrium between revenue and expenditure—would warrant a reduction in the rate of excise tax upon that article. Any decrease of consumption would warrant a rise in the tax on that article, and if that decrease were so great as seriously to disturb the fiscal equilibrium, a new channel of revenue would have to be discovered. There are certain taxes that affect certain limited classes. For instance the British working man does not pay anything on armful bearings, nor on maid-servants, nor, except rarely, on sparkling wines. If we leave Britain with its more or less racially homogeneous population and come to our own Colony with its well-demarcated races, the distribution of taxation should thereby be really rendered simpler.

Numerically the majority of the population is Chinese, and Chinese alien to that. Now that the diversity of tastes of the different races we find that in the consumption of one excisable commodity the Chinese have a practical monopoly. The opium revenue is provided by the Chinese alone, leaving out of account the small medicinal consumption of opium preparations through the regular dispensing chemists for European or other patients. The Europeans in the Colony pay excise taxation on spirits, and beers, and a certain number of the native population also contribute to the liquor excise taxation. It will be plain that, if the opium revenue is diminished that would mean that the majority of the population, the Chinese, were ceasing to pay their estimated share of the revenue. It would clearly become the duty of the Government, through some readjustment of taxation, to secure from that particular section of the population, the proportion of revenue that had failed to be derived from opium. It would be quite ridiculously inequitable that any general abstention from the consumption of an excisable commodity on the part of one section of the population should be made to throw an additional burden upon another section who were still continuing to pay their own fair share of excise revenue. Those then who, rightly, according to their lights, are encouraging the Chinese to abstain from contribution to revenue by the simple process of refraining from consuming an excisable commodity, should also not conceal the fact that new taxation upon the section of the population above responsible for revenue shortage will be imposed to meet that shortage in full. According to those interested in the agitation against the use of opium, the relinquishment of that habit will leave the Chinese community the healthier and the wealthier. The greater ability to bear some substitute taxation for that no longer paid by the Chinese aborigines will be carefully noted by the Government, which may be accounted quite intelligent enough to place the needed fresh taxation upon the right shoulders, and upon no other. The Government has only to consult its own Land Office records and the assessment rolls of the Municipalities within the Colony to know where lies the ownership of property, and how the wealth which that property represents has been largely amassed by the Chinese who have come and settled here under the protection of our flag, to their own imminent advantage.

THE HONGKONG VOLUNTEER RESERVE ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL REPORT.

From the report and statement of accounts to be presented at the third annual general meeting of the members of the Hongkong Volunteer Reserve Association, (united 29th November, 1903) to be held at the City Hall on 27th March, at 5.30, we may the following extracts—

On 1st January, 1907, the number of members on the roll was 251; there were two deaths and 37 resignations during the year, while 16 new members were enrolled. On 31st December there were 228 members on the roll, of whom 216 were present in the Colony. The average of the numbers found in the Colony during 1907 was 206. The number of members present in the Colony throughout the year who did not shoot was 101. As a figure of merit, 95 members attended 700 shots for an average of 45 out of a possible 70. The Governor's Cup for 1907, presented by His Excellency the Governor, Sir Matthew Nathan, K.C.M.G., for the three best scores at the 200 yards and 500 yards range, was won by Mr. A. Jenkins, with the aggregate score of 40 out of a possible 40. As this gentleman received no handicap this will be acknowledged to be a very fine performance. The following are the monthly winners—

March, 200 yards,
A. Morris 61+ 8=70
April, 200 yards,
E. S. Carruthers 61+ 9=70
May, 200 yards,
E. S. Carruthers 63+ 6=69
June, 500 yards,
A. Jenkins 70 scr.=70
July, 200 yards,
F. W. Terrey 58+12=70
August, 500 yards,
A. Jenkins 67 scr.=67
October, 200 yards,
Dr. Evans Jones 63+ 6=69
November, 200 yards,
A. Jenkins 69 scr.=69
December, 200 yards,
A. Jenkins 67 scr.=67
January, 500 yards,
A. Jenkins 67 scr.=67
February, 200 yards,
A. Jenkins 67 scr.=67
March, 200 yards,
E. S. Carruthers 66+ 4=70

The cup presented by Sir Paul Chater, K.C.M.G., to the competitor making the second best score was won by Mr. A. Morris. The competition was shot for on 44 separate dates during the year, and the total number of entries was 1,072.

Berkeley Cup.—Sir H. S. Berkeley, K.C.M.G., presented a cup for competition at 200 yards range.

The competition is still in progress and will be completed in April.

Medhurst Cup.—Mr. G. H. Medhurst presented a very handsome cup for competition under conditions to be decided by the Committee, who allotted it to be shot for under conditions similar to those of the "China Mail" Cup last year, at 200 yards range at disappearing targets on days to be selected. There have been so far only opportunities for two week-end shoots in this competition.

Douglas Cup.—Mr. H. P. White presented a cup to be called the "Douglas Cup" for competition at 200 yards range, and this is in progress monthly at the Peak Range.

China Mail Cup.—The undecided tie between Messrs. P. P. J. Wodehouse, A. W. J. Watt and J. H. Pidgeon left over from last year was shot off in April when Mr. A. W. J. Watt was declared winner with eight hits out of ten shots.

Until and including the month of September trophies were presented by the Association to the members making the three highest scores in each cup competition during each month, but owing to want of funds and to the small numbers competing it was decided by the Committee to present a spoon to the winners only for the remainder of the year.

Douglas Cup.—Mr. H. P. White presented a cup to be called the "Douglas Cup" for competition at 200 yards range, and this is in progress monthly at the Peak Range.

Staunch Little Wooden Ships that Still Sail Across the Atlantic.

Into the Thames, from Aviles, there came, a few days ago, the schooner *Little Pet*, one of those staunchly-built West Country vessels which, for many a long year, have carried on a trade with Newfoundland. The *Little Pet* was built at Fowey twenty-eight years ago. She is only of 75 net tons—a great size, one would think, to have made winter voyages across the stormy Western Ocean.

Put the 25 little wooden ships are stoutly put together, and they are manned by men who are seamen, and know how to handle their craft. A number of tiny traders of this type are owned at Fowey, although the *Little Pet* herself is owned at Penzance. One owner at the former port has a fleet of nearly a dozen such vessels, most of which are of less than 100 net tons.

We have in our memory (says the *Shipping Gazette*) another, well-known old schooner, the *Poss By*, which was lost some few years ago.

The *Poss By* was used at one time to come right up the Thames to London Bridge, laden with pineapples from Oat Island. She was, perhaps, one of the latest schooners to bring pineapples in this wise to London, and as she lay at the wharf it was noticeable that she could carry a fine spread of canvas on the long square yards she had on her foremast.

It is strange to realize that the North Atlantic trade affords employment not only for the largest class of passenger liner, but also for the smallest type of long-voyaged sailing schooner. The *Little Pet* is nearly thirty years old. Still she is sailing the seas, whilst a number of big steamers launched about the same time have long since passed out of service.

Other Matches.—Friendly matches were shot off against H.M.C. *Waterwitch*, U.S.S. *Cincinnati* and H.K. Volunteer Troop, when the Association was victorious.

The team had, however, to own defeat in June last by the H.K. Volunteer Corps by a margin of 15 points out of 67 made by the Volunteers.

New Competitions for 1908.—The Hon. Mr. F. H. May, C.M.G., has presented three cups for competition in the new year in Classes A, B and C, according to handicaps. Mr. G. H. Medhurst has presented three handsome cups for competition during the year. The conditions have not yet been decided upon.

Peak Range.—The 200 yards firing point at the Peak Range was opened on the 21st September, when His Excellency the Governor, Sir Frederick Lugard, K.C.M.G., honoured the Association by firing the first shot. Lady Lugard also graced the ceremony with her presence. The completion of this firing point fills a want long felt by members, and it is hoped that more advantage will be taken of the opportunity thus presented for long range shooting than as far has been the case.

An aged coolie woman was sent to gaol for six weeks this morning, by Mr. Hareland, president, in the Police Court, for the injury of 178 pounds of coal belonging to the Mitsui Bussan Co. Ltd.

The meeting must elect in accordance with rule 9, a Committee consisting of a Chairman, a Secretary, who will also act as Treasurer, and eight other members. Members who have served during the past year are eligible for election but Mr. W. H. Treach and Davis has resigned and Mr. F. Mailand is going away for long leave and does not seek re-election. His Excellency the Governor has sought the sanction of the Secretary of State to grant a grant to enable the Association to employ a paid Secretary. That sanction has not yet been received; it will be necessary, therefore, to proceed to the election of an Honorary Secretary, as Mr. E. S. Carruthers is unable to continue to perform the duties of that office. The grant, if sanctioned, will not be continued beyond the current year unless the present strength of the Association is maintained, and there has been, in His Excellency's opinion, an adequate attendance of members at the range during the year.

MINING IN CHINA.

GOLDFIELDS AND TIN MINES.

His many friends in the F.M.S. will be interested to learn that Mr. Foo Choo Choon has been granted a concession by the Chinese Government to work extensive goldfields and tinfields in the Island of Hainan, near Hongkong.

It may be recalled in this connection that while Mr. Foo Choo Choon was spending a few months of last year in his Fatherland,

news reached him that he had visited Hainan Island and discovered there large areas of tin-bearing land as well as some rich deposits of gold.

That there was a deal of truth in those reports is now abundantly manifest, for a few days ago, a wire was received from Peking intimating that documents relating to an extensive mining concession in Hainan, for which Mr. Foo Choo had applied to the Central Government in Peking have now been signed and sealed by the Mining Department and will soon arrive here.

We understand that the concession is a very valuable one, the alluvial soil bearing a high percentage of tin-ore in many places, whilst in other parts of the concession, which is about 17,200 acres in extent, the wash-dirt, from which gold in large quantities is obtainable in many places, has been struck only 3 or 4 feet below the surface.

It is evident Mr. Foo Choo's good

luck followed him to China, and we shall probably hear before long a good deal more about the Foo Choo Concession in Hainan, whence large quantities of tin and gold will no doubt be forthcoming in the not very far distant future.

That in the hills and dales of Hainan there were large deposits of gold, tin, coal, and iron has long been rumoured, but it has remained for our enterprising fellow-townsman to verify the truth of the reports, and we heartily congratulate him upon the success which has attended his efforts to develop the resources of so important a portion of his Fatherland as the picturesque island of Hainan undoubtedly is.

—Times of Malaya.

28 YEARS UNDER CANVAS.

STAUNCH LITTLE WOODEN SHIPS THAT STILL SAIL ACROSS THE ATLANTIC.

into the Thames, from Aviles, there came, a few days ago, the schooner *Little Pet*, one of those staunchly-built West Country vessels which, for many a long year, have carried on a trade with Newfoundland. The *Little Pet* was built at Fowey twenty-eight years ago. She is only of 75 net tons—a great size, one would think, to have made winter voyages across the stormy Western Ocean.

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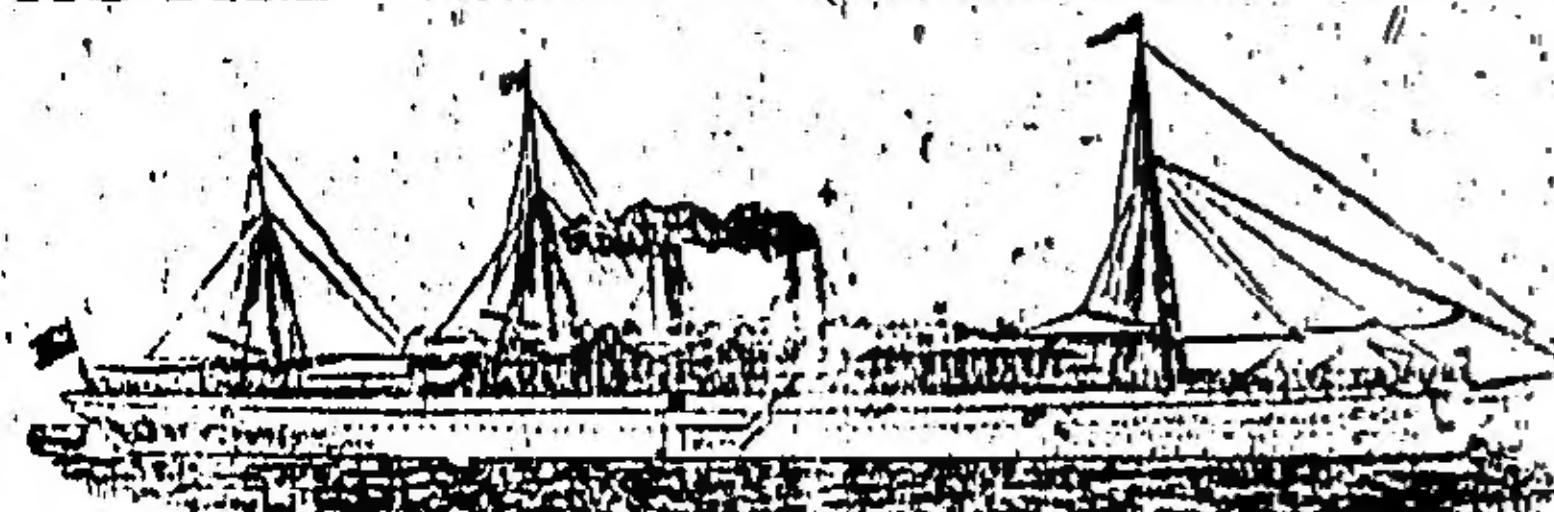
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New Competitions for 1

Shipping—Steamers.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COY'S
ROYAL MAIL STEAMSHIP LINE.

Luxury—Speed—Punctuality.

The only Line that Maintains a Regular Schedule Service of under Eleven Days across the Pacific is the "Empress Line." Saving 5 to 10 Days' Ocean Travel.

11 Days YOKOHAMA to VANCUVER. 18 Days HONGKONG to VANCUVER.

PROPOSED SAILINGS. (Subject to Alteration).

R. M.S.	Tons	Leave HONGKONG	Arrive VANCUVER
"LENNOX"	3,700	WEDNESDAY, Mar. 25th	April 13th
"EMPEROR OF INDIA"	10,000	THURSDAY, April 9th	April 27th
"MONTEAGLE"	6,150	WEDNESDAY, April 22nd	May 10th
"EMPEROR OF JAPAN"	6,000	THURSDAY, May 7th	May 25th
"GLENFARG"	3,700	WEDNESDAY, May 20th	June 18th
"EMPEROR OF CHINA"	6,000	THURSDAY, June 4th	June 22nd
S.S. "LENNOX" and "GLENFARG"			Freighters only and do not carry Passengers.
"EMPEROR" steamships depart from Hongkong at 4 P.M., S.S. "MONTEAGLE" "LENNOX" and "GLENFARG" at 12 Noon.			

THE Quickest route to CANADA, UNITED STATES and EUROPE, calling at SHANGHAI, NAGASAKI, (through the INLAND SEA of JAPAN), KOBE, YOKOHAMA, and VICTORIA, B.C., and at QUEBEC, with the Company's New Palatial "EMPEROR" Steamship, 16,000 tons register, the through transit to LIVERPOOL being 22 days, from YOKOHAMA, and 28 days from HONGKONG.

Hongkong to London, 1st Class, £100, via St. Lawrence River Lines or New York £71.10. Hongkong to London, Intermediate on Steamer, and 1st Class on Railways, £74.10. First-class rates include cost of Meals and Berth in Sleeping Car while crossing the American Continent.

R.M.S. "MONTEAGLE" carries "Intermediate" Passengers only, at Intermediate rates, affording superior accommodation for that class.

Passengers Booked through to all points and AROUND THE WORLD.

SPECIAL RATES (First class only) granted to Missionaries, Members of the Naval, Military, Diplomatic and Civil Services, and to European Officials in the Service of China and Japan Governments.

For further information, Maps, Routes, Hand Books, Rates of Freight and Passage, apply to D. W. GRADDOCK, General Traffic Agent for China, Hongkong, 13th March, 1908. Cornhill Pedder Street and Praya.

INDO-CHINA STEAM NAVIGATION CO. LTD.

(PROJECTED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG—SUBJECT TO ALTERATION).

For	Steamer	On
SHANGHAI via NINGPO	KWONGSANG	TUESDAY, 17th Mar., Noon.
SINGAPORE, PENANG & CALCUTTA, KUTANG	KWONGSANG	TUESDAY, 17th Mar., Noon.
SINGAPORE, PENANG & CALCUTTA, KUTANG	YUENSANG	THURSDAY, 19th Mar., 3 P.M.
MANILA	YUENSANG	FRIDAY, 20th Mar., 4 P.M.
MANILA	LOOYEGANG	FRIDAY, 27th Mar., 4 P.M.

RETURN TOURS TO JAPAN AND BACK.

OCCUPYING 74 DAYS.

The steamers *Kutang* and *Yuegang* leave about every 3 weeks for Shanghai and Yokohama (via Island Sea) returning via Kobe and Moji to Hongkong, providing a stay of 5 to 6 days in Japan if passengers leave the steamer at Yokohama and rejoin at Kobe.

The vessels have all modern improvements and are fitted throughout with Electric Light.

A duly qualified Surgeon is carried.

These steamers have superior accommodation for First-class Passengers, and are fitted throughout with Electric Light.

Taking Cargo on through Bills of Lading to Yangtze Ports, Chusan and Tientsin.

For Freight or Passage, apply to JARDINE, MATHESON & CO. LTD., General Managers.

Hongkong, 13th March, 1908.

CHINA NAVIGATION CO. LIMITED.

STEAMERS TO SAIL.

NINGPO & SHANGHAI	LUCHOW	16th Mar., daylight.
HAI PHONG	"HUEPH"	15th " 10 A.M.
TSINGTAU & NEWCHWANG	"NANCHANG"	16th " 4 P.M.
MANILA	"TAMING"	17th "
SHANGHAI	"Y. CHOW"	17th "
SHANGHAI	"KASHING"	18th "
CEBU & ILOIO	"KAIFONG"	20th "
TIENTSIN	"KUEICHOW"	21st "

The Attention of Passengers is directed to the Superior Accommodation offered by these steamers, which are fitted throughout with Electric Light. Unrivalled table. A duly qualified Surgeon is carried.

Taking Cargo on through Bills of Lading to all Yangtze and Northern China Ports.

Taking Cargo and Passengers at through Rates for all New Zealand and other Australian Ports.

For Freight or Passage, apply to BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE, AGENTS.

Hongkong, 13th March, 1908.

HONGKONG—MANILA.

Highest Class, newest, fastest and most luxurious Steamers between Hongkong and Manila.—Saloon staterooms—Electric Light—Perfect Cuisine—Surgeon and Stewardess carried.—All the most up-to-date arrangements for comfort of Passengers.

CHINA AND MANILA STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

Steamship	Tons	Captain	For	Sailing Dates.
ZAFIRO	2540	R. Rodger	MANILA	SATURDAY, 21st Mar., at Noon.
RUBI	2540	Almond	"	SUNDAY, 28th Mar., at Noon.
ZAFIRO	1540	R. Rodger	"	SATURDAY, 4th April, at Noon.

For Freight or Passage, apply to SHEWAN TOME'S & CO., GENERAL MANAGERS.

Hongkong, 14th March, 1908.

HONGKONG-NEW YORK.

AMERICAN ASIATIC STEAMSHIP CO.

FOR NEW YORK via PORTS and SUEZ CANAL. (With Liberty to Call at the Malabar Coast).

Steamship "SAINT PATRICK" SATURDAY, 21st March, 5 P.M.

For Freight and further information, apply to SHEWAN TOME'S & CO., General Agents.

Hongkong, 15th March, 1908.

Shipping—Steamers.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COY'S ROYAL MAIL STEAMSHIP LINE.

Luxury—Speed—Punctuality.

The only Line that Maintains a Regular Schedule Service of under Eleven Days across the Pacific is the "Empress Line." Saving 5 to 10 Days' Ocean Travel.

11 Days YOKOHAMA to VANCUVER. 18 Days HONGKONG to VANCUVER.

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R. M.S. Tons LEAVE HONGKONG ARRIVE VANCUVER

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Reduced Rates of Freight and Passage.

For further Particulars, apply to

Hongkong, 14th March, 1908.

THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH SATURDAY MARCH 14 1908.

CIE. DES CHARGEURS REUNIS.

All Round the World Line.

FOR SHANGHAI, CHINWANTAO (Tientsin and Peking), KOBE, YOKOHAMA, HONOLULU, NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICAN PACIFIC COAST, BUENOS AIRES, MONTEVIDEO, without transhipment.

THIS Steamer, Twin-screw, 15,000, is Newly-Built and has Superior Accommodation for 1st Class Passengers, Only Single and Double-bunk Cabins, each fitted with Electric Fan, Steam Heaters, Writing Table and Wardrobe, Drawing-room, Smoking-room, Hair Dressing-room and Laundry. Doctor and Stewardess. The best line to go to Japan and America in visiting Peking and North China.

Reduced Rates of Freight and Passage.

For further Particulars, apply to

Hongkong, 14th March, 1908.

J. MILLET, AGENT, FRENCH MAIL OFFICE.

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NORTHERN PACIFIC LINE.

BOSTON STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

Connecting at Tacoma with NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY.

PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG FOR VICTORIA, B.C., AND TACOMA.

via

MOJI, KOBE AND YOKOHAMA.

THE Company's Steamship.

"TOURANE,"

Captain Lancelin, will be despatched for the above Ports on or about MONDAY, the 16th inst.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

J. MILLET, Agent.

Hongkong, 9th March, 1908.

DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR SWATOW, AMOY AND FOOCHOW.

THE Company's Steamship.

"HAIMUN,"

Captain Robson, will be despatched for the above Ports, on TUESDAY, the 17th instant, at 10 o'clock A.M.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

DOUGLAS LAPRAIK & CO., General Managers.

Hongkong, 13th March, 1908.

REGULAR STEAMSHIP SERVICE TO NEW YORK, VIA PORTS AND SUEZ CANAL.

(With Liberty to Call at Malabar Coast).

PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG.

FOR NEW YORK.

S.S. "WRAY CASTLE" 7th April, 1908

S.S. "SIKH" 28th April, 1908

For Freight and further information, apply to

DODWELL & CO., LIMITED.

Agents.

Hongkong, 10th March, 1908.

THE AMERICAN AND ORIENTAL LINE.

FOR NEW YORK.

(With liberty to call at Malabar Coast).

THE Steamship.

"TUDOR PRINCE,"

Captain Macdougall, will leave for the above Ports, on or about TUESDAY, 21st April.

For Freight, apply to

ARNHOLD, KARBERG & CO., Agents.

Hongkong, 11th March, 1908.

CONTRACT ADVERTISEMENTS.

Special Rates for standing advertisements

can be ascertained from the Manager.

Shipping.

Arrivals.			
Vessels	From	Agents	Due
Tamie, Br. s.s. 136, A. Somerville, 13th Mar.—Manila, Gen. 1st Mar. Gen. B. & S.			
Fiume, Ger. s.s. 83, R. Wagner, 12th Mar.—Hongay, 12th Mar. Coal.—S. W. & Co.			
Solstad, Nor. s.s. 87, K. Thorsen, 12th Mar.—Saigon 7th Mar. Rice.—Angaard, Thoresen & Co.			
Nanchang, Br. s.s. 1,044, W. Miller, 12th Mar.—Amoy 12th Mar. Bullast.—B. & S.			
Medan, Ch. s.s. 1,339, J. MacArthur, 13th Mar.—Canton 12th Mar. Gen. C. M. S. N. Co.			
Kwongkang, Br. s.s. 1,414, W. P. Baker, 13th Mar.—Canton 12th Mar. Gen. J. M. & Co.			
Chowia, Ger. s.s. 1,055, T. Spiesen, 13th Mar.—Baukuk 5th Mar. Rice.—B. & S.			
Helene, Ger. s.s. 771, J. Jensen, 12th Mar.—from Tourane, Gen. J. & Co.			
Fukusumi Maru, Jap. s.s. 900, I. Ito, 14th Mar.—Swatow 13th Mar. Gen. B. & S.			

Clearances at the Harbour Office.

Hongkong, for Haiphong.			
Hatch, for Haiphong.			
Clara Jensen, for Singapore.			
Flume, for Canton.			
Kaiyam, for Swatow.			
Luchow, for Nanking.			
Penfow, for Swatow.			
Rust, for Manila.			
Hanoi, for Kwong-chow-wan.			
Koua Maru, for Saigon.			
Halvard, for Hongay.			
Glamorganshire, for Bangkok.			
Tsim, for Manila.			

Departure.

Mar. 14.			
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Glenure, for Shanghai.			
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Hongkong, for Haiphong.			
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Clara Jensen, for Singapore.			
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Flume, for Canton.			
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Yochow, for Canton.			
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Tsim, for Australian Ports.			
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Rust, for Manila.			
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Kialgan, for Chefoo.			
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Passenger, arrived.			
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Per Tam, from Manila—Mrs. Jospeh de Ros, Misses Peillard Ros, Rosario de Ros, Cardeñal de Ros, Pepita de Ros and maid, Messrs. C. O. Fulcher, R. Letourneau, W. Penseur, N. E. Rasmussen, L. E. Collins, B. Jeteran, M. Mourat, G. W. Spring, Quebin Ho, Mrs. J. Henry, and 6 Chinese.			
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Shipping Reports.			
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Str. Solstad, from Saigon:—Strong wind from N.E. heavy sea.			
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VESSELS IN PORT.			
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STEAM.			
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Ascot, Br. s.s. 3,145, Bonth, 4th Mar.—Moji 29th Feb. Coal.—G. I. & Co.			
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Borneo, Ger. s.s. 1,344, F. Semibill, 10th Mar.—Sandakan 5th Mar. Timber and Gen. M. & Co.			
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Bourbon, Fr. s.s. 497, Le Balk, 6th Mar.—Saigon 2nd Mar. Gen. Man. Fat & Co.			
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Brasil, Ger. s.s. 4,215, H. Haase, 15th Mar.—Yo-naha via Kobe and Shanghai 10th Mar.—Gen. H. A. L.			

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SHARE QUOTATIONS.

Supplied by Messrs. E. S. Kadoorie & Co. Corrected to noon; later alterations given under "Commercial Intelligence," page 5.

STOCKS.	NO. OF SHARES.	VALUE.	PAID UP.	POSITION AS PER LAST REPORT	LAST DIVIDEND.	APPROXIMATE RATE OF PRESENT QUOTATION, BASED ON LAST YEAR'S DIV.	CLOSING QUOTATIONS.
				RESERVE.	AT WORKING ACCOUNT.		
BANKS.							
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation	12,000	\$125	\$125	£1,000,000 \$1,500,000 \$2,500,000	\$2,000,000	51%	\$500 sales London £75.10.
National Bank of China, Limited	9,925	67	66	£12,735 \$300,000	\$71,293	52 (London 3/6) for 1903	... \$51
Marine Insurances.							
Canton Insurance Office, Limited	1,000	\$250	\$20	none	\$20 for 1906	62%	\$240
North China Insurance Company, Limited	1,000	\$15	65	Tls. 100,000 Tls. 48,943	Final of 7/6 per share making in all 15/- for 1906—Tls. 2.65	6 2%	Tls. 83 sellers
Union Insurance Society of Canton, Limited	2,400	\$250	\$100	£3,000,000 \$70,000 \$456,407	\$1,460,400	Final of \$12 making \$42 for 1905 and Interim of \$3 for 1906	5 2% \$840
Yangtze Insurance Association, Limited	8,000	\$100	\$40	£125,000 \$17,151 \$81,628	\$394,520	\$1 for year ending 31.12. 5.	... \$152
Do. do. (new)	4,000	\$100	\$60	£80,000 \$159,143 \$1,988		... \$140 buyers	
Fire Insurances.							
China Fire Insurance Company, Limited	20,000	\$100	\$20	£1,000,000 \$346,007	\$74,432	\$0 and bonus \$2 for 1906	9% \$89
Hongkong Fire Insurance Company, Limited	8,000	\$250	\$50	£1,313,941	\$1,2827	127 in 19.6	9% \$205 ex div.
Shipping.							
China and Manila Steamship Company, Limited	30,000	\$25	\$25	£7,000 \$204,638 \$300,988	\$365	\$1 in 1906	... \$12
Douglas Steamship Company, Limited	10,000	\$50	\$50	£50,000 \$75,000 \$75,270	\$1,171	\$4 for year ending 30.1.07	10% \$40
Hongkong, Canton & Macao Steamboat Co., Ltd.	10,000	\$15	\$15	£20,000 \$60,000 \$70,000	16,437	\$12 for 1906 making \$2 for 1907	7 2% \$20
Indo-China Steam Navigation Co., Ltd. (Preferred)	50,000	75	65	£70,000	43,694	5/- for 1906 @ ex 2/3—\$1.24 per share	38% \$39
Do. (Deferred)	60,000	75	65	£70,000		... \$37	
Shanghai Tug and Lighter Company, Limited	200,000	Tls. 50	Tls. 50	Tls. 75,000 \$400,000 \$1,871	Tls. 14,510	Final of Tls. 1/4 making Tls. 3/4 for 1907	7 2% \$15
"Shell" Transport and Trading Company, Limited	2,000,000	£1	£1	£50,000 \$32,957	172,370	Interim of 1/- (Coupon No. 8) for a/c 1907	48% \$16
Star Ferry Company, Limited	10,000	\$10	\$10	Tls. 98,000 Tls. 410,479 Tls. 62,000 Tls. 81,200 Tls. 30,000	\$137	\$1.00 in year ending 30.4.1907 \$0.50	38% \$16 buyers 32% \$13 buyers
Taku Tug and Lighter Company, Limited	1,000	Tls. 50	1/10	none	18,730	Final of Tls. 2 making Tls. 6 for 1906	121% Tls. 47 buyers
REFINERIES.							
China Sugar Refining Company, Limited	10,000	\$100	\$100	£450,000	10,318	48 for year ending 31.12.06	... \$108
Luzon Sugar Refining Company, Limited	7,000	\$100	\$100	none	... \$105	... \$15 sales	
Perak Sugar Cultivation Company, Limited	7,000	\$100	\$100	£100,000	Tls. 8,935	... \$100 sellers	5% \$15
Mining.							
Chinese Engineering and Mining Company, Ltd.	100,000	£1	£1	£150,000 \$84,393	£11,556	Final of 1/6 (No. 9) for 1907	71% Tls. 14,70 sales
Raub Australian Gold Mining Company, Limited	150,000	£1	£1	£4,873	£11,358	No. 12 of 1/—48 cents	58
Docks, Wharves & Godowns.							
Fenwick (Geo.) & Co., Limited	18,000	\$25	\$25	£64,124	10,335	\$1.75 for year ending 31.12.06	... \$14
Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd.	6,000	\$10	\$10	£1,000,000 \$168,875 \$40,000	3,556	Final of 1/1 making \$2 for 1907	68% \$33 ex div.
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company, Ltd.	10,000	\$50	\$50	£100,000 \$100,000	14,442	Final of \$4 making \$8 for 1907	8% \$96 buyers
Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co., Ltd.	15,700	Tls. 100	1/10	Tls. 100,000 Tls. 407,510	16,149	Interim of Tls. 2/1 for six months ending 31st October, 1907	78% Tls. 81 buyers
Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Company, Limited	16,000	Tls. 100	1/10	Tls. 100,000 Tls. 190,000 Tls. 75,000	23,217	Interim of Tls. 8 for account 1907	83% Tls. 217 sales
Lands, Hotels & Buildings.							
Anglo-French Land Investment Co., Ltd.	25,000	Tls. 100	Tls. 100	Tls. 25,000 \$25,000 \$1,000	Tls. 6,531	Tls. 6 for 1907	6% Tls. 100 ex div.
Astor House Hotel Company, Limited (Shanghai)	10,000	\$25	\$25	£10,000	\$10,000	\$24 for year ending 30.6.07	10% \$24 buyers
Central Stores, Limited	50,123	\$15	\$15	£15,000	10,178	\$1.80 for 1906	12% \$12
Hongkong Hotel Company, Limited	12,000	\$50	\$50	£100,000 \$100,000	1252	Final of 1/1 making \$14 for 1907	10% \$10 buyers
Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Co., Ltd.	10,000	\$100	\$100	£100,000 \$100,000	13,915	Final of \$3 making in all \$7 for year ending 31.12.07	7% \$10 buyers
Humphries Estate & Finance Company, Limited	150,000	\$10	\$10	£20,000 \$217,425	4,621	70 cents for 1907	7% \$10 buyers
Kowloon Land and Building Company, Limited	1,000	\$50	\$30	£50,000 \$106	1,653	\$14 for 1907	7% \$10 buyers
Shanghai Land Investment Company, Limited	78,000	Tls. 50	Tls. 50	Tls. 1,523,045 \$1,170,000	107,517	Final of Tls. 3 and bonus of Tls. 2 making in all Tls. 2 for 1907	73% Tls. 100 sales
West Point Building Company, Limited	2,500	\$50	\$50	£800	51,541	Final of \$2.10 making in all \$4.10 for year ending 31.12.07	84% \$49
Cotton Mills.							
Two Cotton Spinning and Weaving Company, Ltd.	15,000	Tls. 50	Tls. 50	Tls. 150,000 Tls. 23,2763	8,807	Tls. 21 for year ended 31.10.1907	48% Tls. 51 buyers
Hongkong Cotton Spinning, Weaving and Dyeing Company, Limited	15,000	\$10	\$10	£100,000	8,669	50 cents for year ending 31.7.07	51% \$19 buyers
International Cotton Manufacturing Company, Ltd.	10,000	Tls. 75	Tls. 75	Tls. 150,000	8,510	Tls. 6 for year ended 30.6.06 (8%)	... Tls. 55 sellers
Lau-kung-mow Cotton Spinning & Weaving Co., Ltd.	8,000	Tls. 100	Tls. 100	none	... Tls. 28,257	Tls. 8 for 1906	... Tls. 75
Soy Chee Cotton Spinning Company, Limited	2,000	Tls. 500	Tls. 400	... Tls. 50,663	... Tls. 50 for 1906	... Tls. 70	... Tls. 70
Miscellaneous.							
Bell's Asbestos Eastern Agency, Limited	8,604	12/6	12/6	£1,399 none	1,628	1/3 per share for 1906	9% \$71
China-Borneo Company, Limited	60,000	\$25	\$25	£10,000	Nil	\$1 for 1904	814 buyers
China Flour Mill Co., Limited	4,000	Tls. 50	Tls. 50	£10,000	5,905	Final of Tls. 5 making Tls. 10 for 1905	10% \$10 buyers
China Light and Power Company, Limited	50,000	\$20	\$10	£10,000	25,000	60 cents for year ended 31.2.06	16 sellers
Do. Do. special shares	50,000	\$1	\$1	£10,000	5,93	80 cents for 1907	10 sales
China Provident Loan & Mortgage Company, Ltd.	125,000	\$10	\$10	£10,000	12,974	\$1.30 for year ended 31.7.07	78% \$11 buyers
Dairy Farm Company, Limited	25,000	\$75	\$6	£10,000	11,804	Interim of 50 cents per share for a/c 1907	84% \$11 sales
Green Island Cement Company, Ltd.	400,000	\$10	\$10	£10,000	11,500	\$1 for year ending 28.2.07	91% \$24 sellers
Hall & Holt, Limited	31,000	\$20	\$20	£10,000	12,953	1/2 per share for year ending 28.2.07	61% \$15
Hongkong Electric Company, Limited	60,000	\$10	\$10	£10,000	14,578	Final of \$1.5 making in all \$10 for 1907	84% \$25 buyers
Hongkong Ice Company, Limited	5,000	\$25	\$25	£10,000	14,512	Interim of 50 cents per share for a/c 1907	8% \$26 sales
Hongkong Rope Manufacturing Company, Ltd.	50,000	\$10	\$10	£10,000	11,727	Final of Tls. 7/4 and bogus of Tls. 24 making in all Tls. 32 for 1907	73% Tls. 432 buyers
Maatschappij tot Mijne, Bosch-en Landbouwexploitation in Langkat, Limited	25,000	Ge. 100	Ge. 100	Tls. 47,500	17,127	Interim of 50 cents per share from 19th Oct. to 30th Apr. 07	8% \$2 buyers
Peak Tramways Company, Limited	25,000	\$10	\$10	Tls. 27,603	2,655	... \$1.5 buyers	... \$1.5
Peak Tramways Company (new)	50,000	\$10	\$10	... none	... Nil	... Tls. 10 buyers	... Tls. 10
Philippine Company, Limited	75,000	\$10	\$10	... none	... Nil	... Tls. 40 sellers	... Tls. 40
Shanghai Gas Company, Limited	24,000	Tls. 50	Tls. 50	Tls. 100,000	7,990	Interim of Tls. 3 for account 1907	... Tls. 123 sales
Shanghai Hora Bazaar Co., Ltd.	5,400	Tls. 50	Tls. 50	Tls. 67,323	9,751	... Tls. 4 for 1905	... Tls. 375 sales
Shanghai Pulp and Paper Company, Limited	4,500	Tls. 100	Tls. 100	Tls. 45,000	3,354	Final of Tls. 5 and Tls. 10 for 1906	52% \$22 sellers
Shanghai Sunatra Tobacco Company, Limited	30,000	Tls. 20	Tls. 20	Tls. 24,820	8,493	Final of Tls. 9 making in all Tls. 14 for 1907	61% \$10 buyers
Shanghai Waterworks Company, Limited	16,350	\$20	\$20	Tls. 7,000	8,592	Interim of 15/- for account 1907 (old)	74% \$21 buyers
South China Morning Post, Limited	6,000	\$25	\$25	£10,000	41,934	Interim of 1/13 for account 1907 (new)	64% \$22 sellers

fact that the Government without the slightest shame should countenance the separation of the wheat from the chaff, as to say, or in other words elevate the accident of birth into a creed. But in the case of such an institution as the Victoria British School that is exactly what is done, for no pupils are received there unless they bear the hall-mark of "Europeans"—that fine old "flock of caste" which so frequently shelters incompetence in high places, and from the outset hampers the struggling youth because he happens to have been born in Hongkong instead of ten thousand miles away, and is a sprig raised in the soil of the Colony, likely to remain and contribute towards the salvation and prosperity for the whole period of his life. If the Government consider it fitting to provide a school exclusively for British-born children, why do they ignore the claims of Indian-born children, and those hailing from other dependencies and Colonies, to say nothing of the other communities in the Colony who are British subjects with as much title to special solicitude as the purely British-born? This Victoria British School stands in a remote district of the city, and is solely devoted to the needs of a few pupils, averaging in number anything between 33 and 41 per month, at a cost to the rest of the Colony which is not merely excessive but absolutely profligate. If it is believed necessary that the Government should act as guardians of the tenderly-nurtured offspring of the elite of Eastern Wan-chai—a doctrine with which we totally and utterly disagree—then what about the others, the native children using the word in the abstract sense? Have they no special right to be considered by the educational authorities? Must they be compelled to tramp miles every day if they desire to obtain a modern elementary education, suitable to the station to which it has pleased the Lord to call them? while the children of the *ban tan* are provided with a school at their very door and out of the public purse. They are representative of the ratepayers at the Legislative Council board, but we fail to recollect any attempt on his part to have this anomalous state of affairs adjusted. If the distinguished and exclusive scions of Wan-chai's "great" have to pay the entire cost of their schooling at this rigidly-guarded institution, nothing could be said. The general public might look on with silent disapproval at the action of the Government in giving its imprimatur to the idea that no good thing can come out of Nazareth, that the native-born has come to Hongkong because his father had seen no opportunity of compiling a competency in this far-away outpost of the Empire, but the general public would have but little right to advert to the question of the cost involved. When, however, we find that this highly-select establishment costs the Government the sum of \$5,000 per annum of \$117 per child in average attendance, all of which comes directly out of the public funds, can it be denied that the ratepayers have a clear and distinct right to protest? [It may be said that the scholars have to pay fees, but what is \$1,67.50 out of the total expenditure of \$6,65, more especially when that money is directed to the cultivation of class distinctions in one of the most cosmopolitan Colonies under the British Crown? The principle that what is good for one child of British parentage is not good enough for that of another hailing from the homeland is vicious enough in itself, when supported by the Government, but why should the native-born ratepayer be penalized for his neglect to have his offspring born on the sacred shores of the British Isles? That is the point we desire to emphasise with all the force at our command. Then, again, see how a considerate educational authority ponders to the delicate constitution of this extremely exclusive section of the community. The school was closed during the whole month of February last year for structural alterations. August and September were two full months of holiday, and there were besides all the other holidays which delight the heart of budding youth. The school was open only 172 times during the year, less than six months in fact, yet a benevolent Government views with apparent complacency the fact that \$5,000 is annually pinched from the pocket of the ratepayer for the benefit of some two score pupils of high degree. Is it not the boast of the Government that all the subjects of the British Crown are treated alike? If so the arrangement which excludes all but British-born scholars from Victoria British school is anomalous and indefensible. It is a direct slight on those who form the majority of the Colony's population. As it is, the fees payable are a hard burden on the ardent ratepayer who seeks to equip his children with an education which will lift them to a higher place than he himself occupies. Then why should that burden be unnecessarily increased by a matter of \$5,000—the sum is actually \$4,997.50—simply because a few individuals are regarded, apparently, as of more importance to the welfare of the Colony than the rest of their fellows? If the children of the remainder of the people in Wan-chai can walk to Queen's College, or wherever they fancy they can obtain a suitable elementary education, then the British-born can do the same and save the taxpayers the sum of \$5,000 per annum. But this question of the allocation of large amounts from the public treasury towards the establishment of a select academy is on a par with half a hundred other measures adopted by the Government. Is a case of the "under-dog" over again. And what about the Kowloon British School? How does the proportion of the money spent by the Government towards the education of the officially-elect to the fees paid compare with Victoria British School? We understand that pupils actually come from Kowloon to Causeway Bay every day to attend the Victoria British School. That should dispose of the suggestion that children cannot be trusted by themselves to travel through the crowded city, but it certainly does not speak well for Kowloon, unless, maybe, it occurs that the school on the peninsula is overcrowded. The Governor in his speech to-day dwelt on the advantages offered by the Hongkong Technical Institute, which is another name for the evening classes at Queen's College. While we entirely believe in the value of that institution, we can only submit that if youths of 14 or thereabouts are considered fit to attend the night school in search of knowledge then children of a less tender age—even if they are British-born—might well be considered fit to attend the day classes at that seat of learning. We do not ask what all this money, amounting to \$6,65, was spent on, believing thoroughly that good and solid reasons would be forthcoming in answer to the question. But it is this \$5,000 coming directly out of the ratepayers' pockets that sticks in the gizzard and makes us wonder whether the Colony will get anything like an adequate or reasonable or any return for its money. That the Government should voluntarily pay over £4, per annum for every pupil who puis in six months or less at the Victoria British School is, as we said before, preposterous, particularly when we remember that it is done at the expense of the very people whose right of equal consideration and participation in the educational and other advantages offered by the Government of the Colony is calmly ignored. It certainly does not speak well for that magnanimity and fairness which should be the distinguishing characteristics of the

Government of every British Colony and of the Government of Hongkong in particular.

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL VACANCY.

(13th March.)

One of the immediate results following the departure of the Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewett on six months' furlough, and one which may have escaped the notice of many readers, is that there are now two vacancies in the administrative Councils of the Colony. The first is, of course, that appropriated to the representative of the Chamber of Commerce, while the other, to which we would more particularly refer, is the seat on the Executive Council, which is by far the more important of the two vacancies to be filled, and belongs under the amended constitution of the Colony to an unofficial member of the Legislative Council. That concession, which says that two seats on the Executive Council are to be conferred on unofficial members, was obtained through the efforts of that quondam champion of colonial interests, Mr. T. H. Whitehead, whose retirement from the business life of Hongkong is felt to this moment. Since the time that the addition of two unofficial members to the Executive Council was sanctioned, it has been generally recognized that, at least one of the seats should be held by the senior member representing the taxpayers, and the first to be elected to the vacancy was Mr. (now Sir) Paul Chater, whose colleague at the private deliberations of the Governor-in-Council was, until the election of Mr. Hewett, the senior partner in Hongkong of the firm of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., who by virtue of the high commercial position he occupied had a seat at the board of the Legislative Council. When Mr. W. J. Gresson succeeded Mr. C. W. D. Wickson in the management of the firm's interests in Hongkong during the administration of Sir Matthew Nathan, and thereafter left for home, he was for some occult reason superseded by Mr. Hewett. As to the individual merits and qualifications of the two candidates for the important seat at the Executive Council it is not "now" necessary to speak, but in view of the fact that Mr. Hewett's departure has again created a vacancy on the higher Council, the question of succession is invested with renewed interest, and, therefore, we consider it opportune to submit the claims of his successor in commercial life—as we urged the claims of Mr. Gresson at the time when his candidature was under the consideration of the former Governor of the Colony—to the position vacated by Mr. Hewett on the Executive Council. It cannot be pretended that the right to one of the unofficial members' seats on the latter board is vested in the "nominees" of the Chamber of Commerce, so that the vacant seat are simply submitting the suggestion that the temporarily broken line of succession should be restored to the head of the firm of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., in Hongkong, a firm which has maintained the highest traditions of commercial life in this Colony, since the day our ascendancy in trade began after the decline of the East India Company's operations in Macao. Although Mr. Keswick has not been very long in Hongkong, and in his consideration of public questions affecting the Colony discussed at the Legislative Council he has not had a predecessor the late Mr. Johnson, nevertheless, on several occasions he has shown an application and industry which fully entitle him to the attention of His Excellency the Governor, whose province it is to appoint the new member of the Executive Council. One of the subjects in which Mr. Keswick showed exceptional interest was that dealing with the Companies Ordinance, when an amending Bill was brought before the Legislative Council. On that occasion he specially represented the interests not merely of the Hongkong companies registered under the Ordinance, but also of the leading firms of Shanghai, for whose benefit the Bill was chiefly introduced, and his arguments in favour of the emendations, framed by a representative committee of Shanghai merchants, were recognized as valid and substantial by the Attorney-General who incorporated them generally in the new Ordinance. Again, Mr. Keswick adopted a pronounced attitude on the vexed Stocks Bill and latterly, possibly through his close connection with the British and Chinese Corporation, addressed trenchant criticisms on the construction of the British section of the Kowloon-Canton railway, when the vote for the current year expenditure was before the Council. As the result of his remarks, a full statement of the position of affairs was given by His Excellency the Governor, while the Resident Engineer presented an exhaustive report on the subject. On all these questions, Mr. Keswick expressed himself in an uncertain manner, and asserted his personal independence of thought and opinion, and this we say although we confess we failed to see eye to eye with him on every occasion. We urge the Governor to admit the wisdom of appointing to the Executive Council a gentleman possessing the qualifications of Mr. Keswick for this office, we feel certain that the business interests of the Colony would be served and advanced, and an adviser of experience and ability would be added to the number of those who at present form the highest board of counsellors to His Excellency. Sir Frederick Lugard.

MR. MURRAY STEWART'S NOMINATION.

(13th March.)

It was with a feeling of the utmost satisfaction that we found ourselves in the position of being able to announce to the readers of the *Hongkong Telegraph*, in last evening's issue, that the choice of the Chamber of Commerce of the member who should represent the mercantile interests of that important body at the Legislative Council, during the absence of Mr. E. A. Hewett on furlough, had fallen on Mr. Murray Stewart. To-day we have to supplement that information with the news that the proposer of the motion, nominating Mr. Murray Stewart to the responsible office of guardian of the Colony's commercial affairs at the Council, will be the Hon. Mr. Henry Keswick, while the recorder will in all probability be the head of the firm of Messrs. Butterfield & Swaine, Mr. D. R. Law. In other words, the selection of Mr. Stewart as the representative of the Chamber has the practical and declared support of the heads of the two "privately houses" in Hongkong, which in itself is sufficient evidence that the nomination has the "approval of" the main body of the mercantile community of Hongkong, and may be accepted as a guarantee that no dissident voice will be heard when the members assemble to record their views in respect of Mr. Stewart's qualifications for the vacant seat at the Legislative. There are many and varied reasons why Mr. Stewart should prove an acceptable nominee, and should be considered a strong and able exponent of the opinions of his constituents. By reason of his avocation he is daily brought into close touch with the commercial necessities of the Colony, and into personal conference with the heads of the banks, the large mer-

chants houses in Hongkong, and with all those whose interests are connected with the prosperity of the port. As a prominent member of the Chamber of Commerce he is necessarily alive to the administrative reforms that are required to enhance the commercial reputation of the Colony, and has given his consideration to the many questions which are referred from time to time by His Excellency the Governor to the Chamber for their opinion and advice. His chairmanship of the Hongkong branch of the China Association has been marked by several notable successes, the result of his keen appreciation of the trend of events on the mainland, and their possible effect on local affairs. The influence, which he unquestionably exercised, when in consultation with Sir Matthew Nathan, secured the forthcoming of the Wan-chai railway scheme, by the initiation of the Kowloon-Canton line to San Chau, although at a somewhat enhanced cost to the Colony, owing to the hasty acceptance of the general plan before they had been supported by sufficient data. On the opinion question Mr. Stewart has impressed himself definitely, his recent travels across China to India and thence to London, having placed him in possession of the actual facts of the situation gathered at first hand from personal investigation. His vigorous representation and clear exposition of the legal and commercial aspects of the *Saiwan* piracy case and its effect on local shipping and trade, secured that backing from the head office in London which induced the Foreign Office to obtain a satisfactory settlement of the claim for indemnity submitted by the Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Company, although the Foreign Office failed to recognize the urgency of the demand for consequential damages. In some quarters Mr. Murray's nomination may be regarded with a certain amount of apprehension in so far as his attitude on Chinese questions is concerned, but we believe an erroneous interpretation has been placed as regards his standpoint in this connection. While in certain respects he may hold anti-Chinese views, we are of opinion that he is not antagonistic to the Chinese *qua* Chinese, but to those Chinese individualists, such as ex-Viceroy Shum, who would seek to advance the interests of China at the expense of Hongkong. Mr. Stewart has abundantly shown his appreciation of the importance of the Chinese interests in the Colony and if the occasion ever arose we feel confident that he would be found throwing the full weight of his influence in favour of promoting the welfare and prosperity of our Chinese fellow-citizens. The personal interests of Mr. Stewart are linked with those of the Colony and therefore with those of every individual whether resident or domiciled here. His nomination by the Chamber of Commerce comes at an opportune moment, for when the Public Health Amendment Bill is brought up for discussion he will be one of the few who can approach the question with an unblasted mind, and all the reviling and adverse criticism to which the Government have been subjected will be impartially considered, and the unfortunate introduction of personalities which has marked previous references to this subject absolutely eliminated. Mr. Stewart possesses undoubted financial capacity, and we feel certain that were his tenure of office as a member of the Legislative Council to be extended beyond the six months, which is the period of Mr. Hewett's absence, the Government would not find itself involved in a similar blunder to that which was made over the question of exchange compensation, which resulted in the framing of the Estimates for gold expenditure on a *ad hoc* basis. As a consequence of that blunder, the Colony's budget between the figures originally set down and those of the rate of exchange ruling to-day shows a wide disparity, on the wrong side, unfortunately, for the ratepayers. His views also on the matter of subsidiary coinage should reveal and emphasise the inconsistencies and want of foresight on the part of those who clamour for the adoption of the majority report submitted as the result of the deliberations of the recent Commission. Mr. Murray Stewart, in short, has a thorough and practical grasp of all the principal questions affecting the vital interests of the Colony and his plain common-sense, sound judgment and business faculty should prove him to be a valuable acquisition to the Legislative Council.

HOW CHINESE PROPERTY OWNERS ARE HANDICAPPED.

As we reported yesterday, an informal meeting of Chinese land-owners in Hongkong was held for the purpose of considering the draft Bill to amend the Public Health and Building Ordinance, which was introduced at the last meeting of the Legislative Council. A considerable number of those whose interests are at stake attended the meeting, but when it came to the consideration of the Bill it was discovered that several of the land-owners present had been unable to read the terms of the measure because of their inability to understand English. It was accordingly decided to request the Chinese Commercial Union to have the Bill translated into Chinese in order that the Chinese land-owners and property-holders might consider its provisions before discussion. It must strike the average reader that there is surely something wrong in the state of affairs when the great mass of the community likely to be affected by the alterations in the Public Health and Building Ordinance are, through no fault of their own but through the remissness of the Government, unable to learn how they are likely to be affected by the changes proposed in the law of the land. Here is a Bill which vitally touches the Chinese community in general and which naturally arouses their curiosity, and yet unless they are willing to go to considerable expense and trouble they are prevented from understanding its terms because the Government do not think it necessary to afford them the requisite translation. It is not as if they were asking any special privilege if they suggested that a Chinese translation might be published in the *Government Gazette*, for at the present time a number of items which appear in the official publication is accompanied by a Chinese translation. Moreover, it was formerly recognized that measures affecting our Chinese fellow subjects ought to be printed in Chinese, and that course was followed. Several Bills bearing upon Chinese questions were translated into the native language. But the practice has evidently fallen into desuetude, and as the Chinese are far from claiming any special favours from the Government, or anybody else, for that matter, they have quietly submitted to the present anomalous arrangement. It may be said that Hongkong being an English Colony, and the language of the administrators being English, it is incompatible with the ordinary principles of government to make provision for those of the community who have failed to acquire a workable knowledge of the language of the ruling class. But the very fact that the Government has admitted the right of the Chinese to have certain items in the *Gazette* translated into the language of Confucius affords grounds for contending that if the rule can be relaxed to that extent then it can be relaxed altogether, whenever matters affecting Chinese interests are in question. Now, this leading Bill is of peculiar importance to the

Chinese community who are of the land-owning class. Of course, it cannot bulk so largely in the eyes of officialdom, because Government servants, in the upper grades at any rate, are not supposed to hold land other than that is required for their own personal purposes, that is to say for the erection of their own private dwellings and the provision of a strip of garden. But then the high Government officials are only temporary guests in the Colony, whereas the Chinese land-holders and property-owners are abiding residents whose interests in the Colony are of a settled character. In the event of this Bill becoming law, and some Chinese gentleman, who stands by the vernacular, having neglected to learn English in his youth, unwittingly transgresses any one of its sections, would it be sufficient for him to state that he had no knowledge of the law's requirements? Of course not, and yet the fault for which he would be penalized would not be wholly his, but should be shared by those whose duty it was to see that he had an opportunity of learning for himself what were the precise terms of the latest Ordinance. In the present case the Chinese have tried to secure the services of their Commercial Union in translating the Bill from English into Chinese. But suppose for a moment that the translator makes a slip— we are not all infallible—and the Chinese property-owner falls into the snare, what satisfaction would he obtain when the Government officials pounced down upon him for some contravention of the Ordinance, as finally passed? The translation could not be accepted in Court because it will bear no official recognition. With the best will in the world the translator might do his work and yet founder amid the intricacies of legal terminology, the consequence being that a hopelessly confused presentation of the terms of the Bill might result. But that would not save the unfortunate transgressor. It seems high time the Chinese should have an opportunity of learning for themselves through an official translation exactly what regulations they are supposed to observe, especially when we remember that there is plenty of precedent why such a course should be followed. In innumerable instances, the Government intimate their wishes to the Chinese by placards and handbills printed in Chinese ideographs. Why not in the case of a Bill which deals with their domestic affairs and their monetary interests. We would suggest that the Government should revert to the old system of printing bills of importance to the Chinese community in both English and Chinese, and then there could be no excuse for those who alleged that they were in ignorance of the provisions of the Ordinance they had contravened.

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THE HONGKONG HOTEL CO., LTD.

HALF-YEARLY MEETING.

The ordinary half-yearly meeting of shareholders in the Hongkong Hotel Co., Ltd., was held at the Company's Hotel, last Saturday afternoon, for the purpose of receiving a statement of accounts of the Company to the 31st December, 1907, with the report of the directors, and to discuss any matter that may be competently brought before the meeting. Mr. W. Hunter Potts (Chairman of Directors) presided; others present were:—The Hon. Mr. E. Osborne, Dr. J. W. Noble (directors), Messrs. P. C. Potts, Lo Cheung Shiu, E. B. Kadocro, E. D. Haskell, F. Mailand, W. E. Clarke, A. Turner, Chan Chan Nam, E. J. Chapman and C. Mooney (Secretary).

The Secretary having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen.—With your approval we will accept the report and accounts as read. It is with regret that we have again to place before you an account showing a further reduction in profits, the shortage being over \$18,000 as compared with the corresponding period of 1906. This is caused by the continued falling off in those departments which in previous years have proved the most profitable, and to the unfortunate collapse of part of the side verandah of the east wing in August last, depriving the hotel of the use of many rooms. There does not appear to be any prospect of an early increase in returns as although the falling off in bars, etc. has for the moment ceased, we have now to suffer loss from a further decrease in the rooms available in the old building and in the rents of shops vacated and to be vacated shortly. Considerable economy has been effected in the various departments and we expect to make large reductions in the coal bill as soon as the gas engines are working. During the period under review three electric lifts have been installed, also telephones and fire alarm bells on each floor and one new gas engine is in good working order. Your Board have given a lot of time to the consideration of the best building to take the place of the old part of the hotel and they hope in the next few months to place their recommendations before you when they will have to ask you for new capital. Three schemes were considered and the one finally recommended, will, I trust, be adopted, as when completed your hotel should be in a first-class position to meet all requirements of residents and transients for many years to come. Until all tenders are received it is impossible for me to give a reliable estimate of the cost, but I would remark that it is likely that the amount of new capital to be called up will exceed the three last mentioned by your chairman at the last general meeting of the company. Before moving the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be pleased to reply to any questions to the best of my ability.

There were no questions asked.

The Chairman moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. Turner seconded.—Carried unanimously.

The Hon. Mr. E. Osborne was re-elected to the Board of directors on the motion of Mr. Clarke, seconded by Mr. Mailand.

Mr. Haskell moved and Mr. P. C. Potts seconded that Messrs. H. U. Jeffries, and A. R. Lowe, C.A. be re-elected auditors.

Carried unanimously.

The Chairman:—Much obliged for your attendance, gentlemen. Dividend warrants can be obtained on Monday, on application to the Secretary.

That concluded the business.

THE SHANGHAI TRAMWAYS.

The N. C. D. News of 2nd inst. says:—

On Saturday afternoon quite a commotion was caused in the Settlement by the arrival of one of the trams at the Shanghai Club.

Yesterday nineteen cars came out of the shed in Hart Road and made the journey to and fro between the Bubbling Well terminus and the Bund. Groups of Chinese, five and six deep in some parts of the Nanking Road, lined the route, and mouths and eyes were opened wide in wonder at the foreigners' latest device made its appearance on the principal thoroughfares. So far from any evidences of hostility being apparent, our native residents appeared to derive the utmost enjoyment from the novelty, and there was a hub of excited conversation along the route as tram after tram came into view and passed out of sight again. Many foreigners took advantage of the occasion to secure their first ride—a free one—and there was a general chorus of approval at the appearance of the cars. The native drivers exercised the utmost caution. Brakes were applied at the sight of a restive horse, or a tardy ricksha coolie, and the day's outing passed without incident. The sparks between the wheels and the rails, due to the fact that the lines are still covered with pitch or mud in places, made the Chinese very wary of crossing the streets. They took care to avoid the rails, and one native was seen to bend down and touch the line with his finger before venturing to dart across. The gongs proved quite effective in clearing the traffic off the lines, and so far from causing any obstruction to the traffic the trams had a really beneficial effect in keeping the smaller vehicles to the sides of the road. Ricksha coolies are now beginning to avoid the lines on those parts of the route where they have been cleared of earth, etc., finding to their cost that once the wheels get into the rails it is frequently necessary to call a halt, let the fare, and lift the ricksha out. A few small stones were placed in the track apparently by mischievous Chinese urchins, but no damage was done. The cars will be out again to-day, when an effort will be made to run them on a schedule, and to-morrow or Wednesday the service between Bubbling Well and the Bund will be opened. The foreign staff of the contractors exercised strict supervision over the drivers yesterday, and subjected them to several tests to ascertain their ability. A representative of this paper was almost thrown off his seat when opposite the Race Course, by the suddenness with which the car stopped. On making inquiries he found that the sudden halt was not due to any obstruction, but was simply ordered to exercise the drivers in the use of the emergency brake. It will be noticed that some of the standards have been ringed with white, or red and white bands. At those marked with white only the trams will stop if desired, while the red bands indicate compulsory stopping places.

The small-pox epidemic at Kobe has been mastered by the energetic measures taken by the Japanese authorities, but outbreaks in Tokio are now causing trouble. On February 23 there appeared twenty-seven new cases of small-pox in that city. The number of patients then totalled 633, of whom 44 have died. It is satisfactory to note that strenuous efforts have controlled the epidemic. Thus vaccinated at the city expense, in various ward offices reached 22,826. The authorities were going to vaccinate 500,000 more within five days. This is Protection run mad!

THE HONGKONG MILLING COMPANY, LIMITED.

ANNUAL MEETING.

THE WANCHAI ROBBERY.

PRISONER COMMITTED FOR TRIAL.

Mr. H. H. J. Gomperts, first police magistrate, presiding at the Police Court, last Saturday forenoon, listened to the story of different witnesses in connection with the assault on the Indian watchman, in Queen's Road East, as fully reported in a recent issue of the *Hongkong Telegraph*. The accused, Leung Kwan, who was formerly a *lukong* in the Police Force, was charged with assault with intent to rob, early in the morning of the 27th ulto.

He pleaded not guilty, and was undefended. Inspector Gourlay, of No. 2 Police Station, conducted the case for the police.

Atma Singh, a watchman in the employ of Messrs. A. S. Watson and Company, said that on the morning of the 27th ulto he left work to return to his home at Wanchai. When he arrived outside the old Commissariat building he saw a Chinaman standing near a tree. Witness continued on his way for a few paces when another Chinaman joined the other near the tree. As he was passing one of them rushed at him and rubbed a handful of pepper in his eyes, while the other attempted to get his hands into his pockets. Witness, who by this time was dazed with pain, cried "Policeman, policeman." He was then knocked down, and his assailants bolted—one running eastward and the other towards the west. Witness pursued the man going west, calling for help all the time. Then he saw a European rush out from the Naval Yard and seized the man. The European told witness to go and fetch a policeman. As stated in the directors' report, our ice plant will be in running order by the beginning of April. The Hongkong Ice Company have contracted to take the whole of our output for a period of ten years, and we anticipate that this branch of our business will prove very profitable. I am glad to say, that everything is going smoothly at the Mills; our Diesel engines and milling plant are in perfect condition, and there is no sickness among the employees. A profit of \$161,262.76 in the first eleven months of our working proves that we have established the business on a sound basis, and I confidently believe that at our next meeting we will be in a position to propose a handsome distribution of profits, but in view of the fact that it was our first working year and that we are still expending a considerable amount on capital account my directors recommend that we pay off our debt of \$77,034.57 and carry forward \$62,756.09 to credit of this year's account, which I trust will meet with your approval. I now beg to move that the report and statement of account at 31st December, 1907, be received, approved and adopted.

Mr. J. Orange, in seconding, said he had had a great deal of experience both in starting and with the working of new companies, and he congratulated the directors and management upon the results they had placed before them. Referring to the debit balance in the first year's working it might be said that that debit might have been written down to capital. Still he thought it came to the same thing. The net result, he thought, was a matter of great congratulation to the Board and their energetic general manager (applause) with whom he had had a great deal to do in connection with the Mills. In his experience he never came across a more energetic and capable individual. The word "Cannot" did not enter his (Mr. Rennie's) composition. Mr. Orange then spoke of the condition of the Mills and thought that it would do the shareholders good to go and see for themselves what a model of cleanliness and neatness the whole establishment was. He had had experience of flour mills at home, but nowhere, in his experience, had he seen one kept under conditions of cleanliness as those at Junk Bay. The smiling faces and alacrity of the Chinese at the Mills would astonish anyone who was acquainted with operatives in Hongkong. He had great pleasure in seconding the motion (applause), which was carried unanimously.

The appointment of Mr. E. Shellim as a director was confirmed on the motion of Mr. Percy Smith, seconded by Mr. Mody. Mr. Ough moved that the Hon. Sir Paul Chater and Mr. H. N. Mody be re-appointed directors. Hon. Mr. Wei Yuk seconded.—Carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. Clugh, seconded by Mr. Mody, Mr. H. Percy Smith was re-elected auditor.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

MARINE INSURANCE BUSINESS IN JAPAN.

GOVERNMENT PROTECTION DESIRED.

The *Japan Chronicle* says:—A petition is being signed by Japanese steamship owners, addressed to the Government and Diet, asking that marine insurance should be made a Government monopoly or that some other suitable measure should be taken for the protection of steamship owners when they desire to insure their vessels. The petitioners say that the progress of this particular branch of insurance in Japan is far behind the advance shown in shipping. Japanese shipping shows an aggregate tonnage of more than 1,000,000, while the marine insurance companies now in existence are only four—the Tokio, Nippon and Co., and—with an aggregate authorised capital of only Y14,000,000, of which not more than Y3,000,000 is paid up. In these circumstances the four companies named are only enabled to continue their business with the assistance of foreign companies, with which 70 or 80 per cent. of insurance taken by the Japanese companies is re-insured. Consequently the Japanese are compelled to act under the dictates of foreign companies in regard to the rate of premium of re-insurance and class of the vessels insured. The result is that the Japanese companies are entirely in the position of agents of foreign companies. Latterly, the Japanese companies, owing to the regulations of the foreign companies, have found themselves unable to undertake the insurance of steamers built before 1880, with the result that Japanese steamers representing about 70,000 tons are obliged to trade unprofitably by insurance. This is a serious disadvantage, for those vessels naturally find much difficulty in securing passengers or freight. Therefore it is urged that the Government should come to their assistance.

Surely it is only in Japan that such an extraordinary proposal could be made. Here are a number of companies, foreign and Japanese, who, presumably, find that it does not pay to accept risks in Japan on vessels more than twenty-five years old. Thereupon the steamship owners appeal to the Government, who, if a monopoly of the insurance business is created, will be expected to accept insurances on every old tramp that is possessed by a Japanese subject. The result will be that the Government's losses on the monopoly will be more than its receipts from premiums; in which case either premiums will have to be raised, or the State will have to bear the burden of the loss. This is Protection run mad!

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FORMOSAN SUGAR.

HOW IT IS PROTECTED.

REMARKABLE DISCRIMINATION.

A question of a most important nature has arisen between the importers of Java sugar and refiners in Japan on the one side, and the Finance Department on the other. It is alleged that the Japanese Government, in working the sugar excise in Japan has been discriminating in favour of Formosan sugar. When the Formosan sugar Refining Company and other companies of same nature were promoted in Formosa in 1899, the authorities of the Formosan Government, acting under instructions of the Tokyo Government, encouraged these enterprises in various ways, with the result that the sugar industry in Formosa was forced into rapid development, the annual output of sugar in the island now reaching 10,000,000 kins, and being expected to increase in time to 50,000,000 kins, which is the total annual consumption of sugar in Japan. But the expense of production in Formosa, according to the report of the Formosan Sugar Refining Company, is higher than that of Java sugar, which is Y2.50 per 100 kins. This is Y2 above the market price of Java sugar, which can be laid down in Japan at Y5.50 per 100 kins. It is interesting to note what was done by the Government, according to statements made by more than one of our Japanese contemporaries, in order to protect the Formosan product. Acting under the advice of a certain Elder Statesman (presumably Marquis Ito, Baron Sakatani, Minister of Finance), instituted a special standard of excise for the sugar produced in Formosa, which was all regarded as first quality (crude) and an excise imposed of Y2 per 100 kins, whereas some qualities—for instance, the E.S.C. brand produced at Ensuiko and T.T.B. brand of Formosa—should clearly have come under the category of *savon* and paid excise at the rate of Y6.50.

That is to say, that the sugar-refining companies of Formosa are all working with European machinery and are actually producing the 3rd quality (white sugar) and quality (brown sugar), nevertheless the Finance Department has accepted all the sugar produced by the sugar refiners in Formosa as first quality (crude sugar), upon which the excise is Y2, instead of an excise that should properly have been imposed ranging between Y4.60 for second quality and Y6 for third quality. The discrimination in favour of Formosan sugar aroused attention in circles dealing with the product, but, says one of our veracious contemporaries, the Finance Department successfully managed to silence sugar merchants, though how this was done is not stated. The new increase of the excise on sugar has now prompted sugar importers and sugar refiners in Japan to protest against the discrimination made in favour of Formosan sugar, and a demand is being made that such discrimination should be discontinued.

Mr. Harry Marriot, of the Naval Yard Police, said that about 12.30 o'clock on the morning of the 27th ulto, he was on duty in the dockyard. He heard the cry of "Lascien!" coming from the street, and, pulling open the gate, he saw the defendant running in his direction and the Indian watchman about twenty yards behind. Witness waited until defendant came in line with him. Then he seized him, and removed him into a cell in the dockyard. He was searched, and a hammer was found tucked under his girdle, on the right hand side. Some time later an officer from No. 2 Police Station arrived and witness handed defendant over.

Sergeant Councill spoke at the visiting spot where the robbery was stated to have occurred, and to finding a packet of pepper and a twenty-cent piece lying on the street.

In his statement when arrested defendant admitted rubbing pepper in the eyes of the complainant, "because I wanted to assault him as a few days before he struck me with his stick on the nose outside the Hongkong and Shanghai," he said.

The defendant was committed for trial.

THE YARN TRADE.

DEPRESSION IN JAPAN.

Japanese contemporaries attribute the present financial panic chiefly to the depression in the raw silk and cotton yarn market, which is locking up a considerable amount of money. In consequence, it is pointed out, exports and imports have lost equilibrium, imports still continuing largely to exceed exports. Again, the proposed increase of taxation has called for a large imputation of the commodities concerned. This has intensified the excess of imports, and gold continues to flow out of the country. Consequently the domestic trade is seriously affected, and the market for all commodities is depressed, the consuming power of the people declining with the tension in the circulation of money. Those merchants who were in a difficult position have been deprived of assistance owing to the stringency of money and have been forced to suspend payment. This has resulted in the failure of a cotton-yarn dealer in Tokyo and the suspension of banks in Hachioji and Tokyo, as well as caused the failure of the metal merchants in Osaka which has intensified the present crisis.

It is reported that the Kanegafuchi Spinning Company is negotiating with French capitalists for the issue of debentures to the amount of Y3,000,000. The rate of interest proposed by the company is 6 per cent., the debentures being guaranteed by the Mitsui and Mitsubishi Banks. The reply of the French capitalists is expected to be received next month. It is reported that the Kanegafuchi company is quite confident of success. The money required for the extension of the company's works and plant, but as the extension is not immediately required, the loan if secured will be deposited with the two banks mentioned until it is called for, and in the meantime it will be utilised as a working fund. Until the money is required it is hoped by the company to pay the debenture interest out of the interest received from the money on deposit.

The *Osaka Asahi* is again attacking the commercial morality of English manufacturers. It alleges that cotton spinners and weavers in Japan have been subjected to considerable difficulty on account of the delay in the delivery of machinery ordered from well-known English makers of spinning and weaving machinery. Between the second half of 1906 and last year, the spinning industry made marked progress, the total number of spindles during the period, by extension of works or the formation of new companies, increasing by 300,000, machinery for which was ordered from England. The contracted time for the delivery of the machinery, representing some five million yen in value, expired over six months ago, and yet the machinery has not arrived. The *Osaka Journal* ascribes the delay to the fact that the English contractors accepted more orders than they could execute owing to the remarkable activity in the spinning and weaving industry in Europe and America during the past three years. It makes some strong comments on the lack of integrity shown in taking orders which could not be executed. *Japan Chronicle*

SHANGHAI "WATCH" CLUB.

CARLOWITZ AND CO. v. H. J. BLACK.

Shanghai, March 3. Mr. W. S. Fleming, acting for H. J. Black, yesterday afternoon filed a demurral to the action at the instance of Carlowitz and Co., who are suing for a sum amounting to almost Tls. 300,000 damages for the defendants refusal to accept delivery of watches ordered for the Shanghai Watch Club. The demurral is in the following terms:—

1.—That the plaintiffs have no legal capacity to sue, in that it appears from said complaint that the plaintiffs are a firm or co-partnership and said complainant is not entitled to, nor does it state the names of the members of said firm or co-partnership.

2.—That there is a defect of parties plaintiff in that there appears from said complaint that the plaintiffs are a firm or co-partnership and said complainant is not entitled to, nor does it state the names of the members of said firm or co-partnership.

3.—That there is a defect of parties defendant in that the other members of the co-partnership known as the "Shanghai Watch Club" are not joined with this defendant.

4.—That several causes of action have been improperly joined in said complaint.

5.—That said complainant does not state facts sufficient to constitute a cause of action; nor do the first, second, third, fourth and fifth paragraphs or any of these state facts sufficient to constitute a cause of action.

6.—That said complainant is ambiguous, unconvincing and uncertain in the following particular:—

(a)—That it cannot be ascertained therefrom what were the terms and conditions of the several contracts mentioned in the complaint.

(b)—That it cannot be ascertained from said complaint what, if any, obligations were incurred by this defendant or by the "Shanghai Watch Club" under and by virtue of the contracts mentioned in said complaint.

Wherefore, defendant prays that said complainant may be dismissed and that he may have judgment for costs. *N. C. D. News*.

OPIUM IN MANILA.

ENFORCEMENT OF THE NEW LAW.

The *Manila Times* of 2nd inst. says:—Yesterday, or, to be exact, at twelve o'clock Saturday night, the opium law went into effect and the Chinese in Manila and Philippines who have been addicted to the use of the drug are experiencing something of the joys akin to those attending a "dry town."

From now on the opium smoker in the Philippines will be a thing of the past. It is true there are still a few about 200 in Manila and some in the provinces, who are "hitting the pipe," but they are in the hospital, and they will soon be out and going, vowing that they will "sin no more." Of the 200 now in the hospital about 130 will be discharged tomorrow and the others will be let out as it is believed they have undergone reform.

Many wealthy Chinamen here who are addicted to the drug are returning to China, probably in that they are going there to indulge themselves in their favourite habit, unmolested.

Now in the Philippines every opium dispensary where those who had become enslaved were treated under government supervision with a view to freeing them from their bondage, is closed and will stay closed. Thus ends one of the greatest reforms ever planned here. And the news is now being scattered broadcast throughout the world announcing that the opium vice in these islands is a thing of the past and that the Philippines have taken the lead of all other countries in suppressing the vicious plague of the poppy.

KOWLOON AND VICTORIA BRITISH SCHOOLS.

The following new rules are printed in the *Gazette*:

Admission to the Schools is limited to children of European parentage; the Inspector of Schools may, if he thinks it desirable, refuse any application for admission subject to appeal to the Governor whose

EXTRADITION OF

CHINESE.

OFFICIAL PROCEDURE.

LETTER BY CROWN SOLICITOR.

We have received the following letter for publication:—

Sir,—In view of the many misleading and incorrect statements, reflecting not only on the action of the Colonial Government and its officers, but also on the conduct of the Chinese Government and Chinese officials, which have appeared in the local press on the subject of the extradition of Chinese, I am directed to request you to be good enough to publish this letter for the information of your readers.

The handing over to China of Chinese subjects accused of committing crimes in China and found in this Colony is regulated by Treaty and by local Ordinance.

The procedure may be summarized as follows:—

The Viceroy of the Province in which the alleged crime has been committed forwards a requisition to the British Consul at his Provincial City for transmission to the Governor of Hongkong requesting the Governor to hand over the Chinese subject charged with committing the offence to a Chinese officer specially detailed for the duty; this requisition contains a specific undertaking by the Viceroy that the accused, if handed over, will be tried in the presence of a British Consular Officer for the offence in respect of which his extradition is demanded and/or for another offence; and this undertaking is invariably carried out.

Upon receipt of this requisition the Governor orders one of the Magistrates to have the accused brought before him and to inquire into the charge. The Magisterial inquiry is conducted in the same manner as in the case of a person accused of the commission of a crime in Hongkong, and, if the Magistrate finds that the evidence is such that in the case of a local offence he would commit the accused for trial at the Criminal Sessions, he commits him to gaol to await the further order of the Governor. During his trial the accused has all the rights and privileges of a British subject charged with a crime.

The depositions are then forwarded by the Magistrate to the Governor together with a report on the case; an interval of fifteen days elapses during which the accused may apply to the Supreme Court for a Writ of Habeas Corpus, then, if no such application is made, the Governor may order the accused to be handed over to the proper Chinese official, who conducts him into China for trial before the proper judge of the Provincial City whence the requisition emanated. Such trial is held in the presence of a British Consular Officer, and unless the accused is then convicted of the offence in respect of which he has been handed over, he is restored to British territory and set at liberty.

If the accused has resided for a year or upwards in Hongkong, the depositions and Magistrate's report thereon must be considered by the Governor-in-Council with the assistance of the Chief Justice.

If the offence in respect of which the survivor of the accused is demanded is of a political character, or if he proves that his survivor has been demanded in order to try or punish him for an offence of a political character, the accused cannot be surrendered.

No person is surrendered unless he is a Chinese subject.

The procedure has been in force since 1889, with little variation.

In May and June 1905, the present Chief Justice, in the case of Wong Ka Shing, pointed out that the Chinese Authorities have no locus standi in these proceedings, as extradition is an executive act of the Hongkong Government at the request of the Chinese Government. The Hongkong Government is bound to act on the requisition and the ensuing proceedings are between the Crown and the accused. Since that decision all extradition proceedings have been conducted by the Police with or without the assistance of myself or my assistants.

If the case comes before the Supreme Court the Chinese Government cannot be heard there, only the Crown and the accused have any locus standi, and consequently the conduct of the case for the Crown necessarily devolves on the Attorney-General instructed by myself. In these, as in all Criminal proceedings, the Law Officers here, as in England, are charged with the double duty of prosecuting and advising the Government.

In order to prevent the escape of a suspected criminal pending the arrival of the official requisition, a Magistrate is empowered to arrest and detain the suspect on such evidence being laid before him as would, in his opinion, justify the issue of a warrant if the crime had been committed in the Colony; but no further proceedings can be taken until the requisition arrives and the Governor issues his order thereon.

In the recent case of Lu Ki Shing the requisition from the Viceroy was in the usual form and contained the usual engagement—securing a trial in the presence of a Consular Officer limited to the charge inquired into by the Hongkong Magistrate.

The officers of the Magistracy, using forms similar to those in use at the Bow Street Police Court in London, had previously caused Lu Ki Shing's arrest as a suspect upon an information and warrant which the Full Court held to be technically defective, and, owing to a misconstruction of one of the provisions of the Ordinance, the Magistrate used another wrong form after receipt of the Governor's order under the requisition.

The Full Court held that the proceedings had been void *ab initio* and discharged the prisoner on these grounds, although it did not disagree with the view taken by the Magistrate and Mr. Justice Wise with regard to the evidence against the accused.

The Full Court also decided that the engagement above referred to must be given by the Central Government at Peking, and that an engagement by Provincial Viceroy was insufficient, but the discharge of Lu Ki Shing was not based on this decision.

Hitherto the Viceroy's engagement has been accepted and has, I believe, been invariably honoured, but in future an engagement will be required from the Central Government at Peking.—Yours &c.,

F. B. L. BOWLEY,
Crown Solicitor.

Hongkong, 10th March, 1908.

WHEN Mr. Spafford, of Messrs. Puscard, Lowther & Company, discovered a coolie disappearing through the gate with some parcels belonging to his firm, he made an ambitious dive at him and caught him. The sequel of the story was told in the Police Court last Tuesday morning. A shoemaker had apparently decided to obtain cheap tacks, which seems to have taxed the patience of Mr. Spafford. The leather artist made a mistake and that was his downfall. He is now enjoying the precincts of the Victoria Gaol, having already exhibited his physiognomy to the curious gaze for a matter of six hours.

BIG FIRE AT MONGKOK

WOMEN AND CHILD BURNED TO DEATH.

GALLANT EFFORTS BY THE BRIGADE.

10th inst.

Two persons were either burnt or smothered to death and another seriously injured at a fire which broke out at No. 40, Station Street, Mongkok, at an early hour this morning. The two persons who lost their lives were a woman named Cheung Chau, about fifty years of age, and a three-year-old child, by name Chan Muk Shu. The injured man, whose surname was given as Chan, was removed to hospital suffering from severe bruises and burns. His case is considered hopeless.

The fire was one of the worst that the Yau-ma-ai firemen have had to handle for some time. It started at the rear of the building, and before the firemen had arrived the flames had assumed such large proportions that the crowd which had congregated outside recognised that a conflagration of no mean dimensions had occurred.

The house is one of the usual Chinese character. The flames flew up and in a minute the whole house was enveloped.

It was known that a woman and a child were living on the second floor, but until the appearance of the firemen neither was seen. Heroic efforts on the part of the Yau-ma-ai Brigade were frivolous, simply because the place was a furnace.

Eventually, after much labour, the brigade which was exceptionally well managed under Mr. P. P. J. Wodehouse and Inspector Macdonald, got control of the flames, but not before two lives had been lost.

The bodies were discovered this morning among the debris.

The origin of the fire is unknown. It is understood that the insurance of the house simply amounts to \$1,500, covered by the Commercial Union Insurance Co.

THE CHINESE MERCHANTS
S. S. CO.

A MISSION THAT FAILED.

The Canton deputation, referred to in our last issue, of the proposed Liang Yuet Steamship Co., which was sent to Hongkong, to solicit the co-operation of the Tung Wa Hospital directors in the raising of capital, has accomplished nothing in the Colony. Acting on the advice of the level-headed business men directing the affairs of the Tung Wa the Canton deputation returned to the Southern capital bag and baggage last Monday night. We are informed that after the discouraging treatment they received at the Tung Wa, the members of the deputation did not have the heart to approach the Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Hongkong.

ROBBERY AT THE SINO-BELGIAN BANK.

The N. C. D. News of 9th inst. reports:—

Burglars broke into the Sino-Belgian Bank between 10 p.m. on Tuesday and 7 a.m. yesterday morning and carried out a clever robbery in a manner that suggests that some of the gang were well-acquainted with the premises. The robbery was first discovered by a constable at 7 a.m. when he went to the bank to clean up for the day, and he at once gave the alarm and the manager hastened into the bank. A telephone message was then sent to the Central Police Station and detectives made a careful examination of the premises. The burglars had entered at a back gate leading from an alleyway off Nan-king Road. They then broke in the back door and gained access to the interior of the bank and were able to wander over the premises at leisure. They appear to have broken open a Chinese-made safe in the general office, from which they abstracted one hundred \$10 notes and a quantity of German, American, Japanese, and French coins and notes. The bank's \$10 notes, which are numbered C5901-C5950, fortunately only bore one signature, and unless the other is forged the notes cannot be negotiated. The value of the other coins and notes amounts to about \$500. There were quantities of securities, native orders and other documents in the safe, and although the burglars had examined them apparently they had decided that they were not negotiable, and did not carry them off. They attempted, unsuccessfully, to open another safe. The cash and exchange shops and the native banks have been informed of the robbery and cautioned against accepting the notes.

A constable visits the alleyway at short intervals during the night, but the back gate, it may be mentioned, is up some steps, and a casual glance with the aid of a lantern might easily fail to show that the gate had been forced if the were closed while the gang was busy inside. It is, however, a matter for surprise that the operations could have been carried on without being heard by any one. No arrests had been made up to a few hours last night.

Shanghai, 7th March.

The man who broke into the Sino-Belgian Bank on Tuesday night and stole a large number of bank notes and coins is now in the custody of the Police and practically all the property has been recovered. This man, so it is alleged, is the perpetrator of several other robberies, including the burglary at the British Consular Shipping Office which took place some time ago.

This arrest was due to the information of a Chinese, and was effected by the French Police on Thursday afternoon. It appears that the man now in custody asked a friend, who was about to visit Ningpo, to get him some notes changed at that Port. The man agreed to do so, but before leaving Shanghai, tendered one of the notes in payment for some fish. The vendor of the fish was unable to give change for the note, and attempted to get change at a native exchange shop. There the accountant found that it corresponded with the description of the notes stolen from the Sino-Belgian Bank and gave information to the French Police, as a result of which the thief was arrested, and also other money. The International Police were informed; they took the prisoner over and he confessed to them that he was the man who had broken into the Sino-Belgian Bank, the Shipping Office of H. B. M's Consul-General some time ago, and also Messrs. Meyer & Co.'s premises.

Captain Clarke seconded.

The Chairman proposed Mr. W. Hutton Potts and Mr. H. Percy Smith be re-appointed.

Agreed.

The Chairman: That concludes the business of the meeting. The dividend warrants will be ready this afternoon.

HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

ANNUAL MEETING.

10th inst.

The thirty-ninth ordinary meeting of shareholders of the Hongkong Fire Insurance Co. Ltd. was held at the offices of the General Managers, Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd., this afternoon. The Hon. Mr. Henry Kewick presided. There were present—Sir Paul Chater, C.M.G., Messrs. H. P. White, F. Maitland, C. S. Gubbay (Consulting Committee), L. N. Lees (Secretary), Ho Fook, H. Percy Smith, J. M. E. Machado, D. P. Guadar, A. H. Da Silva, H. L. Hatchinson, F. d'A. Gomes, Captain W. E. Clarke, Messrs. Wong Lau, Him, W. H. Potts, the whole representing 153 shares.

The Secretary read the notice calling the meeting.

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen.—The report and accounts have been in your hands for some days and I will therefore with your permission take them at read. Your Committee have to regret that they have been deprived of the services of Mr. A. J. Raymond whose impudent departure from the Colony caused his resignation from the Board on which he had served for some ten years. The vacancy thus created has been filled by inviting Mr. C. S. Gubbay. The result of the year's working (1905) is a profit of \$285,797.05, on which I hope we may congratulate ourselves especially in view of the number of serious fires that have occurred since our last meeting. The most disastrous outbreak was of course that of Hainan, which took place last August, and by which a large portion of the town was entirely destroyed and losses were occasioned that taxed the resources of some of the Japanese companies to the utmost. Our own loss was not severe, as a good deal of the property burnt was of a character that we do not insure, more over the terms of the native companies in Japan and the conditions on which they do business are such as to preclude foreign companies from competing. There are signs, however, that the great strength of the reserves of the foreign companies has been thrown into prominence by the disaster to which I have alluded, and if the representatives in Japan of the native and foreign companies are successful in the efforts which are now being made to produce a satisfactory working agreement there should be opportunities of increasing your business there on safe lines. You will also recollect that in September a serious fire occurred in Kobe, causing the destruction of two first class foreign godowns from loss on which, however, we fortunately escaped altogether. Three severe fires occurred in Bangkok in the early part of last year heavily involving Fire Insurance Companies, and in Manila the destruction in April last of a hemp godown resulted in losses amounting to from four to five lacs of dollars. The position in Shanghai to which my predecessor in the Chair made reference last year has undergone an improvement, and it appears that a successful check has been put to the fires in native property which had grown in frequency out of all proportion to both the size and population of the settlements. The activity of the new Chinese companies has however produced a competition for a certain class of business in the face of which a considerable reduction in the rates would appear to be inevitable and it is impossible to foretell at this period what step the combined Foreign Fire Insurance Companies may find it necessary to institute. You will be glad to learn that by the recent severe fires in the Kiu Kiang and Yuen Yuen roads, Shanghai, our losses proved to be quite trifling.

Dealing with the figures for 1906 we have to notice a reduction of \$21,000 in the premium income which is traceable to general depression. 1906 was not a year of very active trade and our premium income bears a favourable comparison with that of the years preceding 1905. Losses are just under 44% of the premium income.

Income from interest shows, as is to be expected, a slight advantage; other items I think call for no special comment. Your Committee decided to vote a bonus to the staff of 10% upon their salaries and the necessary sum to give effect to this has been debited to "Charges" which I trust has your approval. This is as you are aware, the first distribution of profits to be made since the revision of the Articles of Association last year and I hope that the proposed dividend of \$27 a share and an appropriation to Reserve of \$67,400 will have your approval. It may have been thought by some shareholders that a larger dividend could be paid, but your Committee will not, I venture to think, be blamed for considering the necessities of the Reserve Fund which the nature of the business renders it so imperative shall be maintained at high figure. You will share your Committee's gratification that the amount carried forward on 1907 Account is again of an encouraging character which augurs well for the final outcome of that year. Before moving the adoption of the Report and Accounts I shall be glad to answer any questions that you may desire to put.

No questions were asked.

The Chairman moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. H. P. White seconded.

The motion was unanimously carried.

Mr. Ho Fook proposed that Sir Paul Chater and Messrs. White and Maitland be re-elected to the directorate.

Mr. Wong Leung Him seconded.

Agreed.

The Chairman proposed Mr. W. Hutton Potts and Mr. H. Percy Smith be re-appointed.

Captain Clarke seconded.

Agreed.

The Chairman: That concludes the business of the meeting. The dividend warrants will be ready this afternoon.

RAUB.

The following is the result of work at Raub for the five weeks ending 29th February 1908, this being the close of the Company's financial year:—

Bukit Koman 4845 tons crushed, 1025 ozt. Gold obtained, 4.22 dwi. Average per ton.

Bukit Malacca 2358 Tons crushed, 200 ozt. Gold obtained, 1.07 dwi. Average per ton.

Extra Gold from clean up of Plates 476 oz, gold from cyanide treatment for 7 weeks ending 29th February, 1908, 209 oz. Total 1908 gold obtained 4,734 oz.

Gold obtained from the cyanide treatment 1,070 oz.

VICTORIA BRITISH SCHOOLS.

THE THIRD "PRIZE DAY."

11th inst.

The youngsters attending the Victoria British School, which is situated at Caroline Hill Road, were in great glee to-day, the occasion being the annual distribution of prizes. The little class-room, which was artistically decorated with evergreen and bright coloured bunting, was well filled with interested spectators when His Excellency Sir Frederick Luard arrived. His Excellency was accompanied by Mr. A. J. Brackenbury, private secretary, and was received by Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe, inspector of schools, and Mr. W. H. Williams, the headmaster.

Among those present were Dr. G. H. Bateson Wright, Rev. and Mrs. C. H. Hickling, Mrs. W. H. Williams, Mrs. Blanch, Mrs. Hobson, Miss Hoffman, Mr. and Mrs. Young, Mr. and Mrs. Stubbings, Mrs. and Miss Wilks, Miss Taylor, Miss David, Miss Steele, Mr. and Mrs. McNeil, Mrs. and Miss Hobson, Mr. and Mrs. Scott, Mr. and Mrs. Hobbs, Mr. and Mrs. Brett, and others.

The proceedings opened with a little musical programme which was carefully prepared by the management of the school, and there is much to be said that each scholar did justice to his or her part.

THE HEADMASTER'S REPORT.

This over, the Headmaster, Mr. W. H. Williams, F.C.S., F.R.G.S., presented the following report:

Attendance and Fees.—The school was open 177 times during the year, the low number being due to the fact that during the whole of February we were ordered to close for structural alterations; the temporary withdrawal of the young children, and the low attendances during the hottest summer months rendered it advisable to close during the whole of August and September, and to shorten the Christmas Holidays in proportion. We hope this arrangement will improve the average attendance for the year. The average attendances during 1907 (to the nearest unit) are:

January 3, March 5, April 16, May 4, July 3, October 4, November 4, December 45.

The highest number on the rolls at any one time was 59, and 71 pupils were admitted during the year.

To come in line with other schools under the department we closed our school year on December the 31st.

The total expenditure under salary and other charges amounted to \$6,165, and the total amount received in fees \$1,67,50, the net loss, for maintenance being \$4,997.50. The average attendance was 45, so that the net cost to the Government per child in average attendance per annum works out at \$11, a high figure compared with \$30.38, the maintenance cost for each scholar at Queen's College.

In my last report I impressed upon parents the desirability of leaving their boys for a longer period in our Upper School. I am glad to report that 11 boys remained in our 5th and 6th forms compared with 6 in the previous year. Our Upper School provides for the education of older boys, and the curriculum is adapted to prepare boys for a commercial or engineering career. Five of our old boys are now entitled apprentices as engineers, three in England and two in H. M. Naval Yard in this Colony. Our fees are nominal and out of all proportion to the expense involved in carrying on this school, and it is reasonable to expect that English parents should avail themselves of the facilities offered so as to justify the increasing expenditure. Two of our boys, barely 13 years of age, just able to write and cipher and with a superficial knowledge of shorthand, left school to accept tempting offers of \$10 per month as clerks, I regret to say, in Government offices. One has since returned to school and the other has already changed his vocation. It is not in the best interests of a boy to turn him out of school prematurely, and I would impress on parents the fact that in a day school of this kind it is only in the higher forms that a boy acquires the manners, conduct, and virtues, which, as well as learning, go to make him the man which his parents and teachers want him to be.

School Premises, Health.—The general health of the school has been most satisfactory. For three years we have had no cases of infectious diseases if we except the prevalence of malaria in this district in the summer of 1906.

Since then, the Public Works Department have taken steps to remove the swamps in the vicinity of the school and to improve the drainage, so that fortunately we have had no ill effects during 1907.

The school has been comfortably full during the year and towards the end we had to re-quest the loan of additional desks. We were at a disadvantage in not having a suitable class room for our infants. We tried the experiment of partitioning the main room by means of a heavy curtain, but it was not a success.

In reply to several queries addressed to me by parents as to the location of the school and suggesting a position nearer the centre of the City, I take this opportunity of pointing out that we draw our pupils from an extensive area, and, to the great majority, the school is advantageously situated, as only a very small minority come from the centre of the town and from Kowloon. The surroundings are particularly suitable for a school of this kind and it would be impossible to improve upon the present position.

School Examinations.—During the year I held monthly examinations of each class paying particular attention to mental arithmetic and geography, which were so weak in 1906. As terminal reports on each child's work in every subject were sent to parents at Easter, Midsummer and Christmas I need only summarise class results for the year.

Reading, Writing and Arithmetic.—Fair in Class I. Good in Class 2. Fair in Class 3. Very Good in Class 4.

Geography.—Improved in all classes. The practice of taking children out of doors to observe for themselves has had good results, with less cramming of uninteresting geographical facts. The object lessons in Classes 3 and 4 were well known.

Composition.—The shockingly bad grammar spoken and written by boys who were otherwise advanced enough to enter the Upper School suggested the idea that we should introduce a graded scheme of composition starting as low as Class 2. As part of the grammar and composition lessons, we are using special Bright Story Readers compiled by the best English authors; and in this way our younger pupils are encouraged to appreciate and imitate good models both in speaking and writing. At the examination in Class 4 a really creditable composition and justified our experiment to remedy the cramped and stereotyped sentences which characterise the exercises of boys coming into the Upper School.

Drawing.—Freehand and ruler drawing is taken by boys and girls, and the boys are grouped in two stages for two extra lessons while the girls are sewing. The copies reproduced by Classes 3 and 4 were neat and interesting, the girls being the best.

Kindergarten.—In the Infants' and Classes 1 and 2, Kindergarten exercises have provided the little ones with profitable amusement, and

Brush Work, in Classes 3 and 4, without producing any artists of promise, has done something to cultivate the aesthetic faculties, and it forms a healthy recreation when in the summer months young children show unmistakable signs of hand-fag.

The Infants Class, forward of closer personal supervision, did not make the progress that could have been wished. Though our numbers are comparatively small we are obliged to have six separate classes in the Lower School alone, and this sub-division of labour renders the task of the Staff more difficult than if the pupils were of about the same standard. Immediately I brought this to the notice of the Inspector of Schools the Government sanctioned the appointment of an additional assistant Mistress and Miss A. C. Ruiter, a well qualified teacher, was engaged from the beginning of the New Year.

Singing.—Mr. Geo. Grimes was good enough to visit the School and to examine the singing. His report is given in the appendix.

THE UPPER SCHOOL.

During 1907, boys only were admitted to the Upper School which has a class 5 and 6, this being advised as to allow the curriculum to specialise in favour of older boys. 11 boys were present during the last term, their average age being 13 years. The curriculum included English grammar and literature, mathematics (arithmetic, algebra and geometry), geometrical, freehand and model drawing, English history, geography, shorthand and hygiene.

At his last inspection, the Inspector of Schools, Mr. Irving, urged the substitution of Latin in place of English grammar for the Upper School and recommended a new scheme for teaching Latin as a modern and spoken language. After a reasonable trial I found this utterly impracticable; the formalities and exception of even elementary Latin grammar took up much valuable time and gave no results of any value. Our boys do not stay long enough for a useful education in the classics even if they had the inclination for it. By extending to the higher classes the study of English already referred to in the curriculum of the Lower School, we reverted to the formal study of English grammar as a necessary subject involving the theoretical study of English literature, Instruction in Bible history from both the Old and New Testament is given during the first half hour of the morning. This subject, while optional and non-denominational, is taken up by the pupils with great interest and I should be very sorry to hear from any parent that he would delay young children that instruction which is fundamental part of the history of Western knowledge and civilization.

Six boys were promoted from Class 4 of the Lower School, to Class 5 in the Upper, in October, a step rendered necessary when it was decided to finish the year's work in December instead of in the March following as in previous years. This will give these boys 15 months in Class 5.

External Examinations.—For the first time in the history of the School we entered candidates for the Preliminary Oxford Local Examinations in July. Four boys were presented and all were successful, three in the first division and one in the second. A pass in six subjects forms a minimum in this examination. Each of our candidates offered 9 subjects and the results worked out as follows:—

In English literature, composition and mathematics 100% passes. In arithmetic, religious knowledge (Old and New Testament), English history, geography, geometrical drawing, freehand and object drawing 100% passes. The successful boys were Geo. Stokes, Geo. Hobson, B. Friend, and M. McNeil.

Two boys obtained Pitman's elementary certificate in shorthand.

Through the kindness of Mr. D. Templeton an annual award of the sum of \$200 in the form of drawing instruments and books is given to the boy who stands highest in the school examinations in any 4 branches of mathematics, the standard to be at least equivalent to that of the Oxford Local Junior. This special prize was granted for the second time is awarded to the boy who was second in arithmetic, first in algebra, geometry, geometrical drawing and elementary mechanics; viz.—Merville Silverstone.

Parent have already received detailed reports of their boys' work in each subject, and two subjects only need now be referred to in which we have modified the usual syllabus.

Hygiene.—The majority of the boys having satisfactorily passed the Government examination in the advanced stage at the end of 1906 gaining 60% of the maximum marks, a course in lessons in elementary physiology and First Aid to the Injured was substituted for 1907. With the assistance of Miss Ruiter we are continuing this course and we shall send all our senior boys up for instruction and examination under the auspices of St. John's Ambulance Association very shortly. For boys particularly in a Cadet Corps I know of no better practical feature of schoolwork than that they should be able to afford ready, useful, and willing aid when called for.

Geography.—In a commercial port like Hongkong and amongst boys who have been privileged to travel, the subject of geography appeals to me to eliminate the cram which is so often required for examination purposes. By the use of a library of well illustrated text books, the use of the lantern, illustrated text books on the British Empire, boys have been able to study life and conditions in other parts of the world. In awakening attention to its importance and to methods of study we believe this will be the best equipment for boys who learn more geography after the better leaving school.

School Games.—School games have as usual been well patronised. We have had fixtures with all the Anglo-Chinese Schools in cricket and football. Being a school strictly for European children I think it desirable that our boys should be in touch with Chinese youths in matters of sport. In the Schools Football League we climbed from bottom place to four places higher. It was with much regret that for the season 1907-8 we had to withdraw from this league. The secession of the Anglo-Chinese District Schools, and the formation of a minor competition for a cup presented to them alone, appeared to our Committee to defeat its objects of an Inter-Schools' League and left us in the cold for want of suitable fixtures. The boys have also taken up hockey with keenness, but in this we can find no opponents we have had to be satisfied with inter-form games. No difficulty appears to exist in teaching our pupils to swim, for during the summer months they all bathe regularly.

On Empire Day, May 24th, we held our first annual sports, the prizes for which were liberally contributed by parents and friends. We had no less than 125 events, and in each one we had large entries from boys and girls. While boys are naturally the keenest in sport, the provision which is now being made for a new and larger playground by the removal of the large bamboo nursery below the school, should enable our girls to have a fair share in our school games.

Cadet Corps.—The following is the report of the Standard of the Cadets at the Victoria School, dated 1st from the Victoria School, at midday for the last 3 days. They are instructed in Infantry Drill and Semaphore Signals, and although their time in camp was very short they made a marked improve-

ment in drill and attained a very fair standard of efficiency in semaphore signalling.

"As regards the latter many could read and send at quite a rapid rate, but were not sufficiently careful to form their letters quite accurately.

"There was no case of illness, and their behaviour was perfectly satisfactory.

"I hope that this school will be able to send double the number of Cadets to the next Camp and that they will be able to attend for a period of not less than 6 days."

(Sd), A. J. THOMPSON (Capt.), Staff Officer, H.K.V.C.

"March 2d, 1908."

In explanation of the short stay at Camp I should point out that the boys had only just returned to school after a long summer vacation, and I could not recommend any more holidays even for the Cadets.

I have to report that provision has been made in this year's estimates for the erection of a miniature Rifle Range and it only remains to decide upon a safe range without having to go too far away from the school. Including recruits 18 boys now go on parade.

I have to acknowledge the conscientious teaching and good work done by the staff, and also to express my thanks to parents from whom I have always received courtesy and kindness and practical support in the form of subscriptions and prizes for our Sports Fund.

The Inspector of Schools, Mr. E. D. G. Wolfe, visited the school on the 16th and 17th Dec. and made a thorough inspection of each class, pointing out the weak points and making useful suggestions, which the teachers are acting upon. The results of his inspection will be sent to parents after publication in his Annual Report to the Government.

Our Prize List is a small one. In the Lower School prizes are given to the best all-round boy and girl of each class, and for good attendance, and in the Upper School for marked progress in any particular subject—not of necessity every subject. Our prize fund is provided by the Government and is small but sufficient for present needs. I have not invited parents to increase that fund so as to enable us to give everyone a prize. The few that are given have been well justified.

Mr. Williams concluded his report by asking His Excellency to address a few remarks to the scholars.

HIS EXCELLENCY'S ADDRESS.

At his last inspection, the Inspector of Schools, Mr. Irving, urged the substitution of Latin in place of English grammar for the Upper School and recommended a new scheme for teaching Latin as a modern and spoken language.

After a reasonable trial I found this utterly impracticable; the formalities and exception of even elementary Latin grammar took up much valuable time and gave no results of any value. Our boys do not stay long enough for a useful education in the classics even if they had the inclination for it.

By extending to the higher classes the study of English already referred to in the curriculum of the Lower School, we reverted to the formal study of English grammar as a necessary subject involving the theoretical study of English literature.

Instruction in Bible history from both the Old and New Testament is given during the first half hour of the morning.

This subject, while optional and non-denominational, is taken up by the pupils with great interest and I should be very sorry to hear from any parent that he would delay young children that instruction which is fundamental part of the history of Western knowledge and civilization.

Six boys were promoted from Class 4 of the Lower School, to Class 5 in the Upper, in October, a step rendered necessary when it was decided to finish the year's work in December instead of in the March following as in previous years. This will give these boys 15 months in Class 5.

External Examinations.—For the first time in the history of the School we entered candidates for the Preliminary Oxford Local Examinations in July. Four boys were presented and all were successful, three in the first division and one in the second. A pass in six subjects forms a minimum in this examination. Each of our candidates offered 9 subjects and the results worked out as follows:—

In English literature, composition and mathematics 100% passes. In arithmetic, religious knowledge (Old and New Testament), English history, geography, geometrical drawing, freehand and object drawing 100% passes. The successful boys were Geo. Stokes, Geo. Hobson, B. Friend, and M. McNeil.

Two boys obtained Pitman's elementary certificate in shorthand.

Through the kindness of Mr. D. Templeton an annual award of the sum of \$200 in the form of drawing instruments and books is given to the boy who stands highest in the school examinations in any 4 branches of mathematics, the standard to be at least equivalent to that of the Oxford Local Junior. This special prize was granted for the second time is awarded to the boy who was second in arithmetic, first in algebra, geometry, geometrical drawing and elementary mechanics; viz.—Merville Silverstone.

Parent have already received detailed reports of their boys' work in each subject, and two subjects only need now be referred to in which we have modified the usual syllabus.

H. E. G. GRIMBLE.—"MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM."

The scholars then presented four scenes from "Midsomer Night's Dream," which play had formed part of their course in literature. The piece was very well staged, which showed that each performer was well acquainted with the subject. The headmaster (Mr. Williams) and his assistants deserve the highest praise for the success of the play is appended:

"1st.—The meeting in Quince's House—the mechanics decision to stage a play before the Duke and Duchess."

"2nd.—The rehearsal in the wood in which the play comes to grief for Bottom is transformed into an ass."

"3rd.—The re-meeting in Quince's House. Bottom absent—then Bottom re-enters a human form once more and bringing with him good news that one play is preferred."

"4th.—The play before the Duke. The amiable comedy and most cruel death of Pyramus and Thisby."

The names of the scholars who took part are as under:—

Pyramus.....Geo. Hobbs
Quince.....F. Hobbs
Thisby.....M. Silverstone
Snout (Wall).....G. Witchell
Sney (Lion).....G. Baker
Mounstone.....J. Gibson

Geo. Stokes, scene manager.

H. E. YUAN SHIH-KAI.

REPORTED RESIGNATION.

Peking, March 1.

I mentioned recently that certain censors had impeached H. E. Yuan Shih-kai in connection with the Chekiang railway loan and the Wei River question, but that the memorials had been shelved. Now I learn that H. E. Yuan has sent in his resignation as President of the Waiwupu, recommending T. E. Tang Shao-yi, Liang Tun-yen, Wu Ting-fang, Lu Hui-huan and Yuan Shu-han as officers who might replace him. A special meeting of the Grand Council was held in the presence of their Majesties on the 28th ultimo, after which a telegram was sent to Tang Shao-yi at Mukden advising him to return to Peking for special Imperial audience. Presumably this means that there is a possibility of his succeeding H. E. Yuan at the Waiwupu. Governor Tang may be expected in Peking about March 10. Meantime H. E. Yang Shih-chi, brother of Vice-roy Yang Shih-hsiang of Chihli and Imperial travelling Commissioner, who returned to China last winter from Singapore, has been ordered to come up here as soon as possible from Shanghai. It is reported that he will take the place of Tang Shao-yi as Governor of Fengtien.

In view of his experience in foreign affairs and knowledge of the English language, H. E. Tang Shao-yi should be capable of performing the duties in the Waiwupu in the same way as his predecessor.

It is stated that after his retirement from the Waiwupu, H. E. Yuan will remain on the Grand Council, and it is also said that he will probably succeed the Grand Secretary of State, Sun Chih-ai, as Chinese President of the Chinese Republic or Imperial Assembly, China's future Parliament.

Regarding the four other officials whom H. E. Yuan recommends as his possible successors in the Waiwupu, Liang Tun-yen is now Acting Vice-President of the same Ministry; Wu Ting-fang, re-appointed Chinese Minister to the U. S. A., Mexico, Peru and Chile last year, is now in Washington; Lu Hui-huan was recently relieved of his appointment at the Shuihuihui and appointed Director-General of the proposed Tientsin-Pukou Trunk Line; while the last one, Yuan Shu-han, was formerly Customs Taotai of Shanghai and only recently promoted as the Senior Vice-President of the Ministry of the Interior. Among the five officials, the first three can speak and write Chinese fluently and were fellow-colleagues at Yale; while the last two only obtained their experience in foreign affairs, through their former intercourse with foreigners.

Since his appointment as substantial member of the Chinese, Prince Chien (brother of the Emperor) has been playing an important part in the administration of the Chinese Empire. It is believed that this young and energetic Prince will become the leader of the Grand Council after the retirement of

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL VACANCY.

A POPULAR CANDIDATE.

MR. MURRAY STEWART TO BE NOMINATED.

It is with much satisfaction that we have to briefly announce that there is every probability of Mr. Murray Stewart, the popular and able chairman of the Hongkong branch of the China Association, being prevailed upon to accept nomination as representative of the Chamber of Commerce on the Legislative Council during Mr. Hewitt's absence. Mr. Murray Stewart's candidature should be a most popular one.

JAPANESE PRESS ON CHINA AFFAIRS.

While desirous that Japan should do nothing to deserve criticism from England and America in regard to her conduct in Manchuria, the *Kokumin* views the suspicious feeling, if there be any, in the Englishmen and Americans over Japan's superior advantages in Manchuria as owing to a short-sighted understanding of their own interests. So far Japan has not made much advance in her railway and other enterprises across the sea, but even at the present stage of activity, it is an undesirable fact that since leaving by Japan of the Liuchung Peninsula and since the railway and mining were started by her the importation of English and American goods has been steadily increasing. It is only by successful advancement of Japanese undertakings in Manchuria that the principles of the open door and equal opportunity can be actualized. If England and America then be as warm as they were in support of those principles, they should help advancing Japanese interests and reap the fruits of labour together with her. Not that the paper is satisfied with the present state of Japanese interests in Manchuria. Her intention of developing South Manchuria into the world's high-way, she has to encounter rivalry of the Russian line and is threatened with fresh rivalry from a Chinese line. Agriculture and forestry are yet untouched. The colliery holds out a prospect of slow growth. Commerce and industry must be left to international competition. It falls to two friends like England and America to give the Japanese their sympathetic encouragement. Meanwhile, the paper cautions Japanese officials, civil and military, against abuses of their official importance by misguided loyalty to their country's interests, while the foreign merchants, on the other hand, are asked to refrain from misleading their nations and governments by giving them misconstruction on the conduct of individual Japanese.

AMERICO-JAPANESE RELATIONS IN MANCHURIA.

Although the voice of complaint against the Japanese monopoly of trade interests in South Manchuria has often been heard, the *Nichi Nichi* is no more aware of concrete facts substantiating such complaints than it can now believe that Washington Government is taking the matter in as serious a manner as to be exchanging informal notes on the subject with other Powers. The very absence of material facts discredits both rumours. Had there existed any solid evidence of the exclusive purpose of Japan the paper can not believe that America would be exchanging views with other Powers before dealing directly with Japan on the matter. The paper attaches, on the contrary, greater credence to the report that America would give moral support to England, Germany and other Powers in case their interests be violated by Japan's monopolistic policy, but that contingency it believes is only possible on the condition that the Japanese exclusiveness is an established fact. So long therefore as Japan adheres to the principles of the open door and equal opportunity in Manchuria, and refrains from any act positively injurious to the interests of England, Germany and other Powers the paper would not expect any such protest from them with the moral backing of America. The current complaints are at a matter of fact irreconcileable either to gross misunderstanding or jealousy.

THE HSINMIN-TUN-FAKUMEN RAILWAY.

While the *Nichi Nichi* hopes and believes that the Government is exhausting all means within its reach in convincing the Chinese authorities of the unjustifyability of the proposed construction of a rival line to the South Manchurian Railway, the paper cannot rest assured that the effects of the representations made by Japan will not be finally reaped until the Chinese Government itself shows a conviction of the justice of the Japanese claims against violation of its interests which have been secured by preferential rights, and given bona fide assurances of its giving up the scheme. It is not enough that the British Government does not insist upon the rights of an English syndicate concerned with the case. So long as the Chinese Government remains as obdurate in its purpose as at present, it would resort to any other means and ways for realizing an object which can but end in loss of amity between the two nations concerned.

The *Ji* regrets that the obstinate attitude of China is receiving great encouragement from the opinion of the foreigners who have personal interest involved in the success of the rival line, which denounces the Japanese objection as unjust and as signaling its desires of monopolizing organs of transportation in South Manchuria in contradiction to the principles of open door and equal opportunity that it had formerly upheld. While such an opinion would prove strong encouragement to the Chinese Government, it can not fail at the same time to be injurious to the general welfare and international amity, even between the two allied nations. Far from desiring exclusive ownership of transportation organs in South Manchuria, Japan aims simply by the present protest at maintaining the right obtained by contract and to protect the interest of the South Manchuria based on that right. The eliciting by Japan of a declaration from China, at the time of making of the treaty on Manchurian affairs in 1904, that the latter will not attempt construction of a main or branch line in the vicinity of the South Manchuria that would be parallel with it, is not a solitary case in the history of treaty-making with China. The English company obtained the pledge from the Chinese Foreign Office in connection with the Chingling-Kwangchow railway to the effect that the rights secured by the contract shall not be transferable to other nations or nationalities than the English or Chinese, nor shall the Chinese Government confer the same rights on other nationalities, nor shall it contract other railways to the injury of the said line. The paper views these terms not only exhaustive in guarding the English interest but formulated with a greater foresight in refraining from limiting rival lines to parallel ones as in the Chinese-Japan contract. It is on the strength of such an example that the paper feels confident the interested Englishmen would show a less fair attitude and intelligence than their own Government toward the writer of the present regarding by Japan of its interests.

FUN ON THE PEARL RIVER.

HOW THE "ALACRITY" WAS WHIPPED BY A RIVER STEAMBOAT.

On the occasion of the recent visit of H.M.S. *Alacrity*, the Admiral's despatch boat, to Canton an incident occurred which had its humorous side, although it may not be appreciated by the gallant tar who was the sport of the rascal. Indeed, it is perfectly safe to say that in recounting the story the narrator would be wise to do so in the absence of any of the *Alacrity*'s crew. The *Alacrity*, with Captain Sir A. W. Moore on board, had left Canton for Hongkong and was well on the way to that port, when one of the river boats was sighted making great headway in pursuit. Accompanied by a torpedo boat, the *Alacrity* was making easy progress down the Pearl River, headless of competitors, but the river steamboat, incited apparently by the enthusiasm of the Chinese passengers, came to the conclusion that the *Alacrity* was bent on making the pace to Hongkong. Now, it should be understood that one of His Majesty's men-of-war is extremely supercilious when a passenger boat is in question, and would publically consider it *infra dig* to enter into a race competition. Moreover, the officers knowing their strength in emergencies, and regardless of anything but official orders, are not compelled by force of circumstances or the exigencies of trade to make sport in order to show what their vessel can do. But it is otherwise with a river boat. There is a fine healthy rivalry on the river which induces every shipmaster to get ahead of his competitors, at all hazards and there must occasionally be some exciting incidents on the eighty-mile run, when two or more of the river leviathans come together. For the average passenger demands that the vessel by which he travels must be recognized as the greyhound of the estuary and, in this cold weather especially, finds his blood grow warm as the chances of being overtaken or overtaking another steamboat recede or increase. The *Alacrity*, however, held on her peaceful way undisturbed while, from what we can learn, the on-coming steamer was seething with animation, as the thick black smoke poured from her funnel. Of course there could be but one result—the racing craft overhauled the *Alacrity*, and, as she passed the Admiral, the Chinese passengers enjoyed themselves to the height of their hearts despite his howling sarcastic remarks at the sailors regarding the snail-like pace of the despatch boat. Not that the man-of-war's men could understand what was being said, but the tone of the passengers who crowded the rails of the river boat admitted of but one construction. And what was worse, to make their meaning clear, the Chinese from Canton secured by some unknown diplomacy some cables-length of hawser, which was jeeringly thrown overboard, and the crew of the *Alacrity* were good-humouredly invited to accept a tow to Hongkong. Can anybody realize the scorn, the silent contempt which the men of the despatch boat heaped on the land lubbers who dared to insult the pride of the river? Their wrath, all the more bitter because it was restrained, kept boiling over, and deep must have been the epithets cast on the waters by the Jack Tars, doomed to impotent silence. But what a picnic there would have been had they been allowed full scope to return fire for fire, to show what a real sailor can do, when it comes to giving expression to the most modern brand of copper-lined, brassionized, nickel-plated, straight-from-the-neither-regions specimens of what an adept can do in the way of condemned denunciation. However, that was impossible under the circumstances. All the jolly tars could do was to gaze serenely on the horizon, as if they were oblivious to all that was in progress, and look as if they were rambling on the pleasures of their last trip ashore, or wondering what the next menu would contain. The river steamboat gaily forged ahead, the only regret of the passengers being that they hadn't a brass band and some bunches of crackers aboard. The *Alacrity* and the torpedo-boat, which could have given the passenger steamer fits in the way of speed, pursued their placid course like the labourer who used to slowly plod his homeward way. By and by the hawser was drawn aboard, amid the faintly heard roar of the triumphant Chinese and presently the vessels were out of speaking distance, whereupon the incident was at an end. Now, what some people would like to know is—What did the Admiral think about it all, or was His Excellency so immersed in international affairs that he never heard of it?

VOLUNTEER CORPS ORDERS.

ALL UNITS.

Parade.—At headquarters at 5.30 p.m. on Monday, the 16th instant, for infantry drill. Ser't. Downes, 3rd Middlesex Regt., will attend.

ARTILLERY UNITS.—Tuesday, the 17th instant, for Maxim gun drill. Sergt. Bassford, R.G.A., will attend.

Parade.—At headquarters at 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday, the 18th instant, for Maxim gun drill. Sergt. Cook, R.G.A., will attend.

Parade.—At headquarters at 5.30 p.m. on Friday, the 20th instant, for Maxim gun drill. Sergt. Bassford, R.G.A., will attend.

Note.—Rifle with slings attached should be brought on these parades to practise alighting and nosling arms.

ENGINEER COMPANY.—Parade.—At West Fort, Kowloon, at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, the 18th instant, for technical instructions.

TAIKOO DETACHMENT.—Parade.—At Taikoo, at 5.30 p.m. on Thursday, the 19th instant, for Maxim gun drill. Rifles, with slings to be taken on parade. Sergt. Cook, R.G.A., will attend.

LEFT HALF NO. 2 COMPANY.—It is notified for information, that the fourth shoot of the series of monthly competitions will take place at Tai Hang Range on Sunday next, the 13th instant, at 9.30 a.m.

JOINED.—Mr. E. L. Shaw joined the Corps on the 4th March, 1908, assigned Corps No. 1,0,6 and posted to the Right & No. 2 Company.

RESIGNED.—Gunner F. T. Chapman is permitted to resign with effect from the 6th March, 1908.

Gunner F. A. Brown is permitted to resign with effect from the 9th March, 1908.

ORDERLY OFFICER.—For week ending Saturday, 21st March, Lieut. W. M. Scott.

G. C. S. INSPECTION.—Parade.—At headquarters at 2.45 p.m. on Saturday, the 21st instant.

Dress.—"Marching Order." Khaki khaki helmet with badge, waist belt with sidearms pouches, bandolier, coat in coat strap, mess tin and cover, rifle and sling, water bottle, haversack; puttees and black boots.

Medals will be worn by those in possession of same.

Note.—Every member of the Corps must be present at this parade unless prevented by sickness, or stress of business, in which case a medical certificate or a letter from employer stating cause must be provided.

THE AMENDING PUBLIC HEALTH BILL.

CHINESE LAND-OWNERS IN CONFERENCE.

An informal meeting of Chinese land-owners was held last Thursday afternoon at the invitation of the Hon. Dr. Ho, Kai, and the Hon. Mr. Wei Yuk, the object of the meeting was to consider the draft Bill to amend that Public Health and Buildings Ordinance read first time at the last meeting of Council. It was decided to request the Chinese Commercial Union to have the Bill translated into Chinese to enable the Chinese land-owners to consider its provisions before discussion.

OPIUM IN SHANGHAI.

After a considerable amount of irresponsible talk, of unrestrained denunciation of the Shanghai community on the part of a few well-meaning Englishmen who dearly love to decry their countrymen overseas, it is to be feared, in our own midst a *modus operandi* would seem to have been arrived at on the subject of the closing of the opium dens in the Settlement. It is true that no arrangement can be considered final until it has received the formal sanction of Ratepayers at their annual meeting a fortnight hence; but it is legitimate to hope that a scheme which commends itself to the Council and to the representatives of a large section of those who have consistently advocated the abolition of opium will meet with general approval on March 20. The basis of the understanding is that a reduction of 25 per cent in the number of licensed opium houses should be made on July 1, to be followed by similar reductions at intervals of six months, leading to the closing of all opium houses in the Settlement before the end of two years. While holding out the prospect of even more rapid suppression, the Council is unwilling to bind more closely successive administrations without a direct mandate from Ratepayers. If, as there seems no reason to doubt, that mandate is forthcoming at the approaching meeting, the work of closing down the opium houses can proceed with such rapidity as is consonant with equity and administrative exigencies. We use the word "equity" advisedly, although it is not fashionable to regard opium house keepers as being entitled to any of that consideration that a person to be met out to their counterparts in other countries, the proprietors of public-houses or bars. These people have hitherto been playing a trade, as legitimate as and no less unctuous than the retailing of alcoholic drinks; and while it may be in keeping with Chinese measures to close down the business arbitrarily, we believe it to be more consonant with British equity, when there can be no question of compensation to give them to obtain other means of livelihood. Here too we find the strongest justification for gradual suppression instead of total abolition at once and the same time. There will be a smaller number of people thrown simultaneously upon their own resources (which are more likely to make for evil than for good), with less dislocation of the ordered routine of Settlement life.

If the scheme thus approved by the Council should be ratified by the Ratepayers' Meeting, the Shanghai Missionary Association will have reason to congratulate itself on having evaded a *vis-à-vis* between the advocates of total abolition *modus* and those who would allow the evil complained of to suppress itself. The Association was the first body of public opinion to give a practical turn to the foreign campaign against opium, and it deserves credit for having broken away from the extremists who refuse to give any heed to administrative considerations. It is from the latter that public opinion in England have drawn their inspiration when claiming before an audience as unenlightened as themselves that Shanghai must be dead to all moral and humanitarian instincts, because with the same meteoric rapidity that characterized the shutting down of the dens in the native city, in view of these aspirations we feel obliged to emphasize the fact that the policy of the Council has been practically the only line of action possible in the circumstances obtaining in this Settlement, unless it were to adopt the alternative mentioned below, which we advocated at the opening of the campaign. The closing down of the dens in the native city on June 22 was almost the first indication that a semblance of enforcement was to be given outside the immediate influence of Peking to the Opium Regulations. It was, therefore, in the normal course of events that no action should be taken in this Settlement beyond granting fresh licenses until the next Ratepayers' meeting.

THE "DIRECTORY AND CHRONICLE."

AFTER FORTY-SIX YEARS.

We thoroughly envy the writer whose task it was forty-six years ago to draw attention for the first time to the merits and invaluable qualities of the *Directory* and *Chronicle* which is annually issued from the office of our esteemed contemporary, the *Hongkong Daily Press*. Were it not that it might seem hackneyed, we might remark that age cannot wither nor custom stale the infinite variety of its usefulness. To most people engaged in the commercial life of the Far East, the *Directory* and *Chronicle* is a perpetual source of inspiration and instruction, and from the newspaper writer's point of view it is probably the most essential publication which comes to light. Of course, the *Directory* is no light-weight; but it is not one of those pamphlets which can be carried about in the waistcoat pocket, for as a weighty tome it has not its equal in this part of the world. Every year sees it adding to the number of its pages, until now it approaches the 1800 mark. Its information is brought up to date, and from all that we have seen its statistical records are entirely to be relied upon. It is possible that here and there slips may have occurred, but after several weeks' use we must confess that we have failed to find any. Perhaps the only section in which there may be omissions is that devoted to "Foreign residents" but that was only to be expected, and, after all, people do not always turn to that section in the first instance when they desire to discover where individuals are to be found. But, that apart, there are many names which will be missed; names of those who have retired from the commercial life of the Far East, either to spend their days in the enjoyment of life in the homeland, after a period of faithful service, or to sleep the sleep of the just in this country of their adoption. The section which deals with treaties, Orders in Council and all the rest of diplomatic arrangements, continues to expand, and should prove of use to those who have occasion to refer to it. As a matter of fact, the casual perusal of the *Directory* discloses it to be such a mass of curious and interesting information on things Oriental that the reader is apt to prolong his study of the introductory narratives which precede the various settlements and cities where the foreigner has settled down to work. No praise can be too high for the admirable manner in which the compilers have performed their task, and we heartily congratulate the *Hongkong Daily Press* on the publications of this the commercial news sheet of the Far East.

STRANDING OF THE S.S. "CHINGPING".

PRICE OF A MISSIONARY'S LIFE.

COMPENSATION FOR THE LOSS OF HUSBAND AND FATHER.

IMPORTANT LEGAL DECISION.

The *Chingping Morning Post* of 30th inst. says:—Now, by the s.s. *Siklung*, of the wreck of the Chinese Engineering and Mining Company's steamer *Chingping* commanded by Captain Watson.

From one of the passengers of the *Siklung* we learn that when they were passing the S.E. Promontory signals were flying that a steamer was ashore requiring assistance. Capt. Heiser was in the s.s. *Siklung* immediately altered his course, and proceeded to the stranded vessel which he found to be the *Chingping* badly ashore on a small island of rocks about five and a half miles to the south west of the S.E. Promontory.

They approached to within two hundred yards of the ill-fated vessel and took up shore on the passengers, consisting of 1 foreigner and 23 Chinese, as well as 153 bags of mails destined for Chinawangto. From the passenger on the *Chingping* it was learnt that the vessel struck at about midnight on the 27th February during a fog, the sea was calm but there was a heavy swell. When the vessel first struck it was at high tide and the impact was so great as to dislodge her foremast which was later cut off and cast overboard. No confusion whatever prevailed, everyone remained on board until daylight when the passengers and mails were conveyed to the mainland where they remained until picked up by the *Siklung*.

The vessel is in a sheltered position from all northerly winds, but is liable to fare badly should a gale come up from another direction. The after part of the vessel is astern, in about seven fathoms of water and it is feared that she may break free and founder, should any bad weather be experienced.

Mr. F. J. Curtis, Lloyd's agent, left here on Sunday evening on the s.s. *Nihon Maru* to commence salvage operations and the Chinese torpedo-cruiser *Felying* was despatched yesterday to the scene of the disaster. We also hear that the S.M.S. *Armen* has been sent from Tsingtao to render assistance.

REGIMENTAL INSPECTION.

At 9.30 a.m. on the 12th inst. H.E. Major-General Broadwood, C.B., accompanied by Lieut. E. H. Bonham, A.D.C., arrived at the Murray Barracks Parade Ground to inspect the 3rd Battalion Middlesex Regiment. There was a general salute, after which H.E. inspected the Regiment, the Band playing meanwhile. H.E. addressed a few words to the Officer and Commanding, and praised the men on their smart appearance. The men were in marching order.

OSAKA SOSHEN KAISHA.

As our readers will be aware, says the *Japan Chronicle*, the Osaka Shosen Kaisha has a scheme on foot to open a regular steamship service between Japan and America. Six steamers for the new line, each of 9,000 tons, are being built, three at the Mitsu Bishi Yard, Nagasaki, and three at the Kawasaki Yard, Kobe. The Osaka Shosen Kai-ha has approached existing railway companies in America with a view to their taking up the line on the Pacific coast in order that a special railway connection should be made, but all were found to have such connections already, and were not in a position to accept the proposal. It appears, however, that the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railway Company has decided to extend its line to Tacoma on the Pacific coast, and has already commenced the work of construction. In order to make a connection with steamship services, negotiations have been entered into with the Osaka Shosen Kaisha, and the Vice-President of the American railway company is now in Kobe for the purpose of consulting with Mr. Nakahashi, President of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha, in regard to the scheme. The first questions to be agreed upon between the two companies are the Asiatic terminus of the steamship service, whether this should be Hongkong, Shanghai, or Tairen, the rate of freight, and what quantity of freight each company would be able to guarantee. When these questions have been agreed upon, each company will begin preparations for opening the new connection between America and the Orient. There are so many lines now running across the Pacific that when a new service is opened it is expected that keen competition will arise.

The Osaka Appeal Court upheld this contention of the defendants, and quashed the previous judgment ordering the Osaka Shosen Kaisha to abandon the wrecked steamer to plaintiffs, but ordered them to surrender all rights to the ship to the plaintiff, according to Article 544 of the Commercial Code, which says:—

"A shipowner can free himself from liability for acts of the master done within the limits of legal authority, or for damage to other persons caused by the acts of the master or another mariner in the performance of their duties, by abandoning—at the end of the voyage—to a creditor the ship, the freight, and all claims for damages or compensation which have accrued to him in relation to the ship; unless he himself is in fault."

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THE "TATSU MARU."

AGITATION IN CANTON.

MASS MEETING CONVENED.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

Canton, 6th March, 1908.
With reference to the arrest of the Japanese steamer *Tatsu Maru* No. 2 by the Chinese authorities on the charge of alleged smuggling of arms and ammunition, negotiations are still proceeding between the parties concerned, in order to bring about a satisfactory settlement. As the Japanese Government persistently demands the release of the captured vessel, the Chinese people, other than officials here who are watching closely the progress of the negotiations, are of opinion that steps should be taken to protest against the Japanese demands. The Canton Self-Government League, realising the importance of the question, has issued a circular calling a mass meeting to discuss the matter.

The circular runs as follows:—The Japanese steamer *Tatsu Maru* No. 2 was arrested in Chinese waters for the illegal act of smuggling arms and ammunition; consequently, this vessel should, of course, be confiscated by the Chinese Government in conformity with the international treaty between the two countries. The Japanese Government, on the other hand, demands its release. It is now decided to arrange a meeting to take place to-morrow when all classes of the Chinese population are invited to attend for the purpose of making a protest against the Japanese demands.

CONDITIONAL RELEASE UNACCEPTABLE.

A few days ago a communication was received by the parties immediately concerned in the case that the Canton Viceroy was willing to accueillir en condition d'assurer de la sécurité de la ville. The Chinese Authorities stipulated that the *Tatsu Maru* would be released on condition that the cargo was detained. They admitted, although somewhat late in the day, that the vessel was in Portuguese territorial waters at the time of her arrest. To the conditional surrender of the steamer, the Japanese Consul at Canton demurred. Mr. Uyeno insisted on the release of the *Tatsu* and cargo all in all. The Consular officials' contention was that, if, as now admitted, the steamer was within the waters of Macao, the Chinese Government had no case in seeking to detain the cargo. It is not doubted that within the next few days the *Tatsu Maru* will be released in compliance with the joint demands of the Japanese and Portuguese Consuls at Canton. The next question to arise will be, one of compensation, that claimed on demurrage alone for over a month's detention is stated to be a large amount. In the meantime no statement of claims has actually been lodged with the Provincial Government at Canton.

AGITATION AT CANTON.

A MONSTER MEETING.

Canton, 6th March.
The *Tatsu Maru* incident is still the all-absorbing topic of the hour in Canton and in all quarters the affair is arousing the most intense discussion. It culminated in a mass meeting, which was held yesterday at the headquarters of the Canton Self-Government League. The meeting was attended by all classes of the community in large numbers, numbering several thousand. At the meeting several prominent members of the gentry delivered lengthy discourses pointing out the unlawful action of the Japanese steamer in attempting to smuggle arms and ammunition. A map was sketched on a black-board hung on the wall showing the exact place where the Japanese steamer was seized whilst in the act of unloading arms. The purpose of the map was to assure the people present that it was in Chinese waters that the vessel was arrested. It was also stated that it had been the custom for years for foreign steamships to apply to the Lappa Customs for a permit—when discharging cargo and other goods in the vicinity of Lappa, in Chinese waters; but on the present occasion the Japanese steamer in question did not conform to the usual custom and to Treaty obligations. In the opinion of the speakers steps should be taken to strongly resist the Japanese demands in order to secure the sovereign rights of China in its own waters. In case of failure to bring about a satisfactory issue by having the steamer and its cargo confiscated, it is feared that smuggling of arms and ammunition into the interior of the province, can by no means be restricted in the future. The meeting resolved to wire to the Grand Council of State, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Cantonese officials at the Capital to the foreign effect requesting them to maintain strongly their decision in opposition to the Japanese demands. It was also decided to wire to the Cantonese people residing in foreign countries and the people of the provinces throughout the Empire to join in this protest, and to solicit subscriptions to defray any expense incurred in connection with the case.

It was further decided to prepare a statement showing every particular relating to the arrest of this vessel, and to send copies of such statement to all native papers at the different ports and in foreign countries, and also to translate the statement into English to be published in the foreign Press.

The boatman, Leung Chow Lee, who was engaged by the Portuguese to tranship the arms from the Japanese steamer, is now detained in Canton, and as he is in all probability, give further evidence to the intended act of unloading arms and ammunition into his boat from the steamer.

The meeting also resolved to request all Chinese who are well versed in international Treaties and laws to make suggestions on the legal aspect of the case with a view of opposing the Japanese in their demands.

During the proceedings at the meeting it was agreed by all to adopt the scheme of boycotting Japanese goods should the Chinese Government fail in their protest.

What the vehement speeches were being delivered, a certain man voluntarily subscribed \$100 towards expenses for telegrams, etc. He was asked to put down his name on the subscription-list, but he refused; and it is recorded on the list as "A nameless man" who subscribed \$100.

By the time the meeting was ended a considerable sum of money was collected among those present.

The meeting proved to be a great success and lasted until 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

Telegrams were then drafted and despatched to the Capital and to foreign countries as stated above.

COLLECTING EVIDENCE.

In accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, H.E. the Viceroy has given orders to Captain Ng King Wing and Weiyuan Wong Yun-tong to proceed to Peking together with the eye-witnesses of the arrest of the Japanese steamer *Tatsu Maru* No. 2, and also for those who are in any way connected with the case in order to have these men investigated before the officials of the Ministry. It has been reported that Captain Ng King Wing and Weiyuan Wong Yun-tong are to be despatched to Canton and subsequently bring

every detail of the case. It is reported that all these witnesses will leave here for the North in a few days' time.

CHINA UNYIELDING.

As we go to press a report reaches us from a correspondent at Canton that, a rumour is current, in shipping circles there, that there is every probability of the ss. *Tatsu Maru*, together with her cargo, being put up for sale by public auction some time next week. This report is, however, unconfirmed, and, if true, gives the case a pretty serious complexion in the present attitude of Japan.

CANTON VICEROY'S WARNINGS.

DEPARTURE OF WITNESSES FOR REKING.

Canton, 10th March.

The interest in the *Tatsu Maru* case is so very general that all the vernacular journals are exhibiting unwonted energy in reporting news concerning the case, while at the same time the editorial columns of the Chinese press have been largely filled almost daily with comments touching the international aspect of the affair. By order of H.E. the Viceroy, yesterday, the magistrates of the districts of Nanchang and Panyu sent for the editors of the different native newspapers to their yamen and warned them not to report too critically in their columns concerning the question at issue, as it is one of great importance and no extraneous matter should be introduced in its discussion. H.E. has also warned the officials of the various departments in connection with the Canton branch of the Imperial Telegraph Administration not to make known any telegraphic messages affecting the case, that are being frequently transmitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Peking and to the Central Government and vice versa.

Yesterday afternoon, Captain Ng King-wing of the Chinese gunboat *Po-Pik*, and Weiyuan Wong and others who were connected with the *Tatsu Maru* would be released on condition that the cargo was detained. They admitted, although somewhat late in the day, that the vessel was in Portuguese territorial waters at the time of her arrest. To the conditional surrender of the steamer, the Japanese Consul at Canton demurred.

Mr. Uyeno insisted on the release of the *Tatsu* and cargo all in all. The Consular officials' contention was that, if, as now admitted, the steamer was within the waters of Macao, the Chinese Government had no case in seeking to detain the cargo. It is not doubted that within the next few days the *Tatsu Maru* will be released in compliance with the joint demands of the Japanese and Portuguese Consuls at Canton. The next question to arise will be, one of compensation, that claimed on demurrage alone for over a month's detention is stated to be a large amount. In the meantime no statement of claims has actually been lodged with the Provincial Government at Canton.

REPORTED SALE.

In reference to the report from Canton that the *Tatsu Maru* and cargo would be sold next week, a representative of this paper had a conversation with the manager of Messrs. Atsaka & Co., agents in Hongkong for the Provincial authorities at Canton of any intention to put the steamer and cargo up for sale next week as rumoured. In the opinion of Messrs. Atsaka & Co., they did not think such a decision had been arrived at. Had that been the case, the owners or the Japanese Consul at Canton would have had official intimation of the fact. The firm are informed that their Consular representative in Canton was in receipt, yesterday, from the Japanese Foreign Minister at Tokio, of a long telegraphic despatch to which Mr. Uyeno has replied. The contents of the official messages are, at the present stage of the negotiations, of a strictly confidential character and are not, therefore, available for publication.

AGITATION IN CANTON.
CONTINUED.

GUARDING OFFICIAL SECRETS.

Canton, 11th March.

The Canton Self-Government Association has again convened another meeting to take place on the 12th instant, for the purpose of adopting further measures to protest against the Japanese demand for the release of the ss. *Tatsu Maru*.

The League has also again despatched telegrams to the different ports to representative bodies of Chinese residing there, laying stress on the importance of the case and requesting all Chinese people to co-operate in their action so as to strengthen the hands of the Government in dealing with the case in an effective manner.

It is reported that H.E. the Viceroy has dismissed two members of the Secretariat of his, for having disclosed certain confidential matters relating to the negotiations in reference to the *Tatsu Maru* case.

CANTON VICEROY CONFERS WITH BRITISH ADMIRAL.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S SUGGESTIONS.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

Canton, 12th March.

The Canton Self-Government Association has again convened another meeting to take place on the 12th instant, for the purpose of adopting further measures to protest against the Japanese demand for the release of the ss. *Tatsu Maru* last month, which had since been in the hands of the three Governments concerned, viz., the Government of China, Japan and Portugal. That was a significant paragraph, and reading between the lines much could be deduced as to the purpose of the Commander-in-Chief's visit to Canton. As is now known, in spite of Vice-Admiral Chang's indisposition, H.E. made it a point to hold a conference with Admiral Moore, on Sunday, who was accompanied by Mr. Mansfield, the British Consul-General. A very significant report appears in the columns of the Chinese newspaper, the *Asiatic Star*, on whose authority I learn that H.E. the Viceroy has forwarded a telegraphic despatch to Peking to the following effect.

Recently H.E. had a conference with a certain foreign Admiral. In the course of the conversation this high naval official suggested that a third Power should be asked to mediate in settling the differences regarding the case. It was also stated that the opinion was that the seized vessel should be by no means be released at this stage, so as to prevent any unexpected circumstances arising that might lead to further complication, when the question will be surrounded with many more difficulties. The Admiral also declared that the smuggling of arms and ammunition into the province was a matter affecting the commercial interests of his country, and that he would himself do all he could within reasonable limits and in conformity with the treaties to bring about a satisfactory conclusion should the Japanese Consul at Canton fail to come to an understanding with the Chinese authorities towards the desired end.

Another telegram also quoted from the *Asiatic Star* states that H.E. Chang has wired to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the effect that if Japanese men-of-war were really being despatched to the port of Canton, they would be accorded a most friendly reception into Chinese waters, in the same manner as vessels of other nations. H.E. requested that the Ministry should adhere firmly to their decision in the protest against the demands of the Japanese Government.

THE SELF-GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION'S MEMORIAL.

After the first meeting of the Canton Self-Government Association, with reference to the *Tatsu Maru* case, a quadriga to back up the demands

of the Chinese authorities, telegrams were despatched to various consulates, in addition to a long memorial was forwarded to H.E. the Viceroy, pointing out minutely the illegal action on the part of the Japanese steamer in attempting to smuggle arms and ammunition into the province, and showing what would be the outcome as regards his international condition of affairs in this province, and even in the whole Empire of China; should the case not result in a satisfactory manner, as for years past the Chinese Indians have obtained their supply of arms, etc., from the colony of Macao or by way of that port. In the memorial the Association earnestly requested H.E. to maintain a strong stand in opposition to the Japanese demands on behalf of the people and also, on their behalf, to memorialise the Throne for authority to confiscate the seized steamer according to Customs regulations without yielding to extraneous influences.

THE PORTUGUESE POSITION.

STATUS OF COLOWAN.

[From another Correspondent.]

Canton, 13th March, 1908.

As the outcome of the dispute regarding the territorial waters of Macao, within which the seizure of the *Tatsu Maru* is alleged to have taken place, I have learnt on good authority that the Peking Government has raised the question of the sovereignty of the island of Colwan, opposite Macao. This side issue will have a very important bearing upon the question in defining the territorial limits of the waters of the Portuguese settlement. I hear that the Wai-wu-pu refuses to acknowledge the Portuguese sovereignty over Colwan and has advised the Japanese Minister to that effect at the same time as the Governor of Macao was also apprised of the Chinese definition of the delimitations of Macao. The telegram to Author Coulinho was, I hear, received at Macao yesterday. The request of the Japanese Government, which had also been transmitted to Senhor Coulinho, was to establish proof of the error of the Chinese contention.

THE BRITISH CLAIMS.

The *Tatsu Maru* seizure presents many interesting features. The cargo of coal aboard at the time of the steamer's arrest was consigned to Messrs. Butterfield and Swire in Hongkong. On behalf of that firm, the British Consul-General is also under the necessity of conducting correspondence with the Viceroy's yamen, a feature in the case which should be of special interest to Hongkong.

JAPANESE OFFICIAL VIEW.

GREAT INSULT TO JAPAN.

We understand that the following account represents the official view taken by the Japanese Government of the arrest of the *Tatsu Maru*:

The Japanese steamer *Tatsu Maru* (3,143 registered tons) left Kobe on January 26. On the morning of February 5 she arrived off Macao, and anchored at a point two and a half miles from the land, and was within the Portuguese territorial waters.

The rifles and ammunitions in question were sold by the Atsaka Co. of Osaka to the Atsaka firm of Macao. Prior to the bargain, however, the Atsaka firm applied for permission to the Portuguese authorities at Macao and obtained special permission for the importation of ninety-four cases of rifles and forty cases of ammunition, which were loaded at Kobe. For the discharge of the Atsaka firm got permits from both the Kobe Customs and Kobe Water Police, and, moreover, special permission was given to load ammunition within the harbour. All the necessary formalities were complied with, and the alleged fact of smuggling cannot be traced at all.

In the afternoon of the day of the arrival of the *Tatsu Maru*, however, Chinese men-of-war suddenly made their appearance and surrounded the steamer. Then two Chinese officers, with more than twenty armed sailors under their command, came on board the *Tatsu Maru* and told the captain that she was seized by the Chinese authorities, as she was smuggling arms and ammunitions. The captain protested in vain, and the Chinese officers lowered the Japanese flag from the top of the mast, and hoisted a Chinese flag instead. The *Tatsu Maru* was then ordered to proceed to Canton, but she could only go to Shantou, where she now remains.

There is no necessity to comment on the illegality of the seizure by the Chinese authorities with in the Portuguese territory. Conceding for argument's sake, however, that the Japanese ship was at the time of seizure within the Chinese territorial waters, the mere fact that she was preparing to unload her cargo does not constitute the action of smuggling arms and ammunitions to Chinese territory, because the place where the *Tatsu Maru* was staying was the usual anchorage for large vessels which cannot go into Macao harbour. As the action of the *Tatsu Maru* cannot be reckoned as smuggling, there is no reason to deal with this question in accordance with the rule of mixed investigation prescribed in Customs rules in the case of confiscation of goods by the Chinese authorities. Especially should it be noted that the seizure was not effected by the Customs officials, but by a Chinese naval force. This constitutes a veritable warlike measure which cannot be adopted in the time of peace, and is another reason against the application of the rule of the mixed investigation to this case.

The lowering of the Japanese flag, on the *Tatsu Maru*, was, *inter alia*, tantamount to hostile action and does not require investigation. A noted publicist instances the French occupation of Beirut in 1868 and Germany's continued occupation of Kiaochow. Some papers are giving prominence to their columns to the movements of Japanese men-of-war; but hitherto it is significant that no naval move has been taken.

FUTURE SUPERVISION.

While vigorously pressing the Wai-wu-pu for satisfaction, Baron Hayashi, the Japanese Minister in Peking, is reported to have warned the Tokio Government that it will be well to exercise stricter control over the export of arms in view of China's nervousness regarding revolutionaries.

AN ACT OF WAR.

Tokio, March 8.
The Tokio authorities declare that the lowering of the Japanese flag on the *Tatsu Maru* was, *inter alia*, tantamount to hostile action and does not require investigation. A noted publicist instances the French occupation of Beirut in 1868 and Germany's continued occupation of Kiaochow. Some papers are giving prominence to their columns to the movements of Japanese men-of-war; but hitherto it is significant that no naval move has been taken.

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

HON. DR. HO KAI'S TERM.

PETITION FOR HIS RE-NOMINATION BEING ARRANGED BY CHINESE FRIENDS.

On the 24th inst. the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai's second term of office on the Legislative Council expires. The honourable member holds his seat as senior member for the Chinese and as a nominee of the Government. He completes twelve years of office. Whether or not Dr. Ho Kai intends to serve for another term of six years, it is re-nominated by the Governor, is a minor point. But it is doubtful if the Doctor, who is still in the enjoyment of full vigour and strength, would be willing to relinquish a position of honour and distinction and all that is meant by it in the special Chinese sphere wherein he moves and exercises his moral influence. However that may be, the question is delicate one to submit point blank to the honourable gentleman and we have refrained from ascertaining his personal views at the moment on a question of general interest to the community. The fact remains, however, that a section of his friends and admirers have got up a petition to be submitted to the Governor the tenor of which we have so far gathered, will be to solicit His Excellency's gracious pleasure in re-nominating the honourable member to a third term of office. Whether Sir Frederick Lugard will be influenced by the petitioners, it is not safe to hazard a guess. And whether also His Excellency would prefer the introduction of new blood into the deliberations of the Council is another question that may be pertinently submitted. At any rate, considerable interest attaches to the retiring member's re-nomination or otherwise. That the candidature would not be going abegging in the event of a vacancy is safe to predict. But as regards for the covetous honour would do well to remember that "possession is nine points of the law," and unless Dr. Ho Kai elects to withdraw from the local political arena, his return to office as senior member for the Chinese may be predicted as a foregone conclusion.

The date of the Hon. Mr. Wei Yuk's appointment also expires this year—on the 21st October next.

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL VACANCY.

HON. MR. KESWICK'S APPOINTMENT.

13th inst.

Following our leading article of last evening advocating the Hon. Mr. Henry Keswick's appointment to the Executive Council vice Mr. E. A. Hawett on furlough, our inquiries to-day establish, beyond a doubt, the practical certainty that the choice of the election fell on the candidate whose claims we urged upon the notice of His Excellency the Governor. Until the appointment is officially gazetted it is but natural that those concerned could make no definite statement for publication. Enough, however, was gathered in the course of brief questionings to lead our representative to the reasonable belief that our prophecy was not wide of the mark and that the next weekly official publication will contain the announcement we had anticipated. Counting upon the certainty of the appointment, we heartily congratulate H.E. upon a selection which cannot fail to give the utmost satisfaction; for in Mr. Keswick the Government acquires upon the highest Council of the Colony a gentleman whose interests are bound up in every branch of trade and industry in Hongkong, be it shipping or landed estate, mercantile or financial.

CANTON-KOWLOON RAILWAY.

CHINESE ACTIVITY.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

Canton, 12th March, 1908.

The work on the construction of the Chinese section of the Canton-Kowloon Railway in the Shek Lung district, has been commenced and materials are now being transported to that district in large quantities to meet requirements. The Railway Bureau has requested the different Likin Stations to pass all railway materials for the road without delay when en route for the scene of operations, as these articles are all exempted from payment of Likin dues.

THE WRECK OF THE "CHINGPING."

The N. C. D. News, of 9th inst., says:—The latest information with regard to the C. E. & M. S. Chingping, which went ashore on the rocks in Shih-tau Bay on the night of the 27th ultimo, is that the task of attempting to save the vessel itself is almost hopeless. The fore part of the vessel is piled up on the rocks and her bottom is so much bent that she bulges at the sides. At the bridge the steamship is afloat in water which has a depth of about 17 ft. at low tide, and the cargo—in the after hold is as yet undamaged, being protected by a watertight bulkhead; but should a strong south or south easterly wind arise, it is probable that the vessel may snap in two. The Shanghai Tug and Lighter Co.'s tender Victoria left the scene of the wreck at noon on Friday and arrived here yesterday at 10 a.m. The same Company's tow-boat Samson left Shanghai for Shih-tau Bay on Friday morning with two lighters in tow for the purpose of salvaging the cargo, but owing to the heavy N. E. gale which has prevailed during the past three days, it is probable that the Samson will have to anchor during the voyage and will not arrive at the scene of the wreck until to-morrow. In the meantime endeavours have been made to charter junks to lighter the cargo, but without avail, as the native boats in Shih-tau Bay are loaded with cargo and unable to accept the engagement.

The C. M. S. Kwangtao, which arrived here yesterday from Hongkong, reports having seen the tug Samson with two lighters in tow at Fairy Wreck buoy. She signalled: "I shall proceed as soon as weather permits. Report me." When last seen the tug was proceeding towards an anchorage under the lee of the North Bank.

MAN'S FOOD.

BUTCHER CAUGHT KILLING A DISEASED PIG.

A butcher named Wong Wa, residing at 9, Station Street, Yau-tau, paid a penalty, which was by no means severe, at the Police Court, yesterday, for attempting to supply the public with the remains of a diseased pig. He was charged at the instance of Inspector of Depots C. W. Birrell before Mr. F. A. Hazelton, with killing a diseased pig, and with slaughtering animals in his house. The defendant admitted the charge. The magistrate requested that the Tokio Government be communicated with on the subject.

The Waipu has written to the Japanese Minister, stating that the agreement made between the Japanese Government and the Great Northern Telegraph Company concerns the coast line of China, and that the Chinese Government does not recognize the validity of the Chinese. The Waipu requests that the Tokio Government be communicated with on the subject.

BIG BLAZE AT WEST POINT.

FIVE HOUSES GUTTED.

DAMAGE ESTIMATED AT \$30,000.

13th inst.

It would not be exaggerating, for we have it from the highest authority, that the fire which gutted five houses at West Point last night—Nos. 372, 372, 374, 376 and 378, Des Vaux Road West—and partly destroyed No. 388, doing damage to the extent of about \$30,000, was the biggest seen in that district since 1904.

These buildings are two stories high, built of blue brick, and were used as godowns. They were filled with matting, which made fine fuel. The fire started at about seven o'clock on the ground floor of No. 372, and was discovered by Chinese constable 216, who turned the alarm. Within five minutes, the firemen from No. 7 Police Station were on the scene, under Inspector Collett. A little later the fire brigade put in an appearance, but by this time the six buildings were enveloped in flame, and no time was lost in getting down to earnest work. The flames, once they began to spread, worked their way from one building to another, and, from them on the site was a brilliant one as it broke through the roof and spread out.

The fire was one of the fiercest, from a smoke standpoint, that the firemen have had to deal with for years. The stock of matting made the buildings burn like a tinder box. Altogether sixteen lengths of hose were in operation, including those from the fire-fighters, which arrived shortly after the outbreak, putting an end to all tramway traffic as far as Kennedy Town.

The fact that the wind was blowing in an unfavourable direction, towards the west, caused some anxiety to the firemen, and not a little to the crowds, when it became known that the flames were mazing in the direction of No. 380, where stored large quantities of coke and tar. The firemen, who, to say the least, deserve great praise for the work that was done and the risk they ran, put up a strong fight to keep the flames away from this building and the buildings at the rear, but at first it seemed as if they were doomed to disappointment, so fierce did the fire burn. But they were successful in the end.

At about two o'clock this morning—after five hours hard struggling on the part of the gallant fire-fighters—the indications were that the flames would be confined to these six buildings alone. The wind had veered somewhat, and the fire was so well under control that the possibility of it spreading to the coke and tar godown seemed unlikely. During the fire the crowd that gathered in the neighbourhood—and a huge crowd it was—began to get disorderly. Forty police-men were appointed to keep the mob from entering the area, but this had no effect. Assistance was applied for at headquarters, and a squad of Indians, in charge of the Jamadar, was despatched to the scene, but still the crowd could not be controlled. Finally, as the last resource, the hose had to be turned on them and this had the desired effect. They scattered immediately in all directions, and when the road, within a respectable distance was cleared, about twenty pairs of shoes, which had been trampled off during the rush, lay in the centre of the street. Among the crowd were a number of Europeans—including many ladies—so they did not escape sprinkling from the hose.

As far as is known at present there were no lives lost. When the fire was first discovered no less than thirty men were working in the building, but they made for the street as soon as the word "Fire" was called.

The origin of the blaze is put down to the over-turning of a kerosene lamp while the candles were at work.

The buildings were insured with the Hongkong Fire Insurance Company for \$28,000. The matting was insured in the Imperial and Phoenix Insurance Companies for \$50,000; Reuter Brockleman \$20,000, and in the Yeo On Insurance Company for \$10,000.

MISSING ACCOUNT BOOKS.

CHINESE BUSINESS MAN ARRESTED FOR THEFT.

12th inst.

A Chinese business man, giving the name of Kwok Tso, was apprehended yesterday afternoon in the Central district, by Detective Sergeant O'Sullivan, on a charge of theft. The warrant on which he was arrested was issued by Mr. F. A. Hazelton on the 5th instant, but was only executed yesterday when Kwok Tso returned from Canton. The charge against him was that of stealing a count books, partnership books and the chops of the Kwong Fook Cheong shop.

Kwok Tso, it is alleged, was at one time the managing partner of the Kwong Fook Cheong. Lately, it is asserted, a dispute—over what is not yet known—arose between the partners. As a result of this trouble Kwok left the Colony a week ago, and about that time the firm's books and chops disappeared. Suspicion fell on Kwok, who was arrested as mentioned above.

At the Police Court, this morning, he pleaded not guilty to the charge. Mr. Reginald Harding prosecuted. A week's adjournment was asked for and allowed by Mr. Hazelton. Bail in the sum of \$500 was agreed upon.

KINDNESS REPAYED.

A BURMESE THANKS.

13th inst.

A rather strange story was told to Mr. H. J. Goimpert, this morning, at the Police Court, when Richard Simmonds, a native of Burma, was arraigned on a charge of stealing a tweed suit, a blanket, a white shirt, a singlet and several pieces of other clothing from T. L. Seddons, a clerk in the employ of Messrs. Brattton and Hett.

About five months ago complainant, who knew defendant was destitute, invited him to his house at 2, Bowring's Canal East, where he was given food and shelter. On the 8th inst. complainant left the house in the morning, and during his absence defendant seized his opportunity of removing what clothing he could find. Then he took himself off to Kowloon, and was not seen until yesterday afternoon when he was taken into custody, by the Wan-chai police.

The C. M. S. Kwangtao, which arrived here yesterday from Hongkong, reports having seen the tug Samson with two lighters in tow at Fairy Wreck buoy. She signalled: "I shall proceed as soon as weather permits. Report me." When last seen the tug was proceeding towards an anchorage under the lee of the North Bank.

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MR. MODY'S MUNIFICENT GIFT.

\$35,000 TOWARDS ERECTION OF SEAMEN'S MISSION.

SURPRISE FINALE TO MEETING TO-DAY.

13th inst.

At the meeting held in the City Hall this afternoon, at which H. E. Sir Francis Lugard presided, Mr. H. N. Mody, at the close of the proceedings delivered a short address which was the event of the day.

Mr. Mody said that he had learned from the Rev. Mr. France that it was proposed to purchase a site and erect thereon a Seaman's Home at a cost of \$30,000, if the necessary funds were forthcoming. Concluding he said:—Speaking not come easy to me, but I should like if I may be allowed to do so, to do something to help this cause, and to say that should the amount necessary for the purchase of the site be forthcoming it will afford me infinite pleasure to erect and present to the Mission a suitable building thereon at a cost of \$35,000. (Loud cheers.)

ROYAL ARTILLERY REGIMENTAL SPORTS.

13th inst.

The opening day of the R. A. Regimental Sports took place this afternoon at the United Service Club's ground, at Kowloon, in the presence of a large gathering of interested spectators. Among those present were: Major Stephenson, Major Perry, Capt. W. B. Butcher, Lieut. Waller, Lieut. A. W. Chapman, Lieut. O. C. R. Hill, Lieut. H. L. F. Dimmock, Lieut. P. O'Sullivan, Sub-Maj. Mahomed Din, 1st Lt. Mr. Gr. Little, R. S. M. Thorp, Sgt. Spencer, Sgt. James, Sgt. D'Arcy and C. S. M. Rac.

During the sports, the Band of the 3rd Battalion Middlesex Regiment played the following selections of music:—

1. March. "Faro Hills" ... Summer. 2. Value. "Brise des Nuits" ... Lamotte. 3. Step. "Carnival" ... C. M. S. 4. Step. "Carnival" ... C. M. S. 5. Value. "Syrinx" ... Taylor. 6. Selection. "Cotter's Song" ... Godfrey. 7. Two Step. "The Maid of the Market" ... Smith. 8. Selection. "Farewell Song" ... Smith. 9. Selection. "Gondoliers" ... Sullivan. 10. Value. "Luna" ... Lincke. 11. Two Step. "Pop! Goes the Weasel" ... Faust. 12. Step. "Hail! Good Day" ... Faust. 13. R.A. Regimental March. "God Save the King."

The opening events and results were:—

Long Jump. Prizes, \$2, \$4, \$2.

Gr. Canter. (Distance 18ft. 1in.)

Bomb. Cast.

Gr. Williams.

Throwing the Cricket Ball. Prizes, \$5, \$3, \$2.

1. Gr. Thomas. 2. Corp. Wright.

3. Gr. Karrick.

Gr. Thomas got in a very good throw of 109 yards.

Hurdle Race. Heats, 3ft hurdles, 100 yards, 10 flights.

1. Gr. Thomas (26 secs.)

2. Gr. Canter (30 secs.)

Half Mile, R.G.A. Prizes, \$12, \$8, \$4.

Gr. Thomas (2 min.)

2. Gr. McFarlane.

Tug-of-War. (First round). 10 men a side, limited to 110 stone, raff. Pull, best's out of 3. Open to men's teams drawn completely from a Company R.G.A., European Company or any ship.

This contest was most exciting. The 88 and 132 and Company were the first two teams to enter.

Winner, 88 Coy. In the second, the 88 and 132 Company Camerons were the two opposing teams. At first, the Camerons showed unmistakable signs of winning. Toward the end, however, they gave way, and the 88 Company came out victor.

During the events, three of the R.G.A. men, dressed as negroes, kept passing funny remarks and altogether enjoying themselves at the expense of the spectators and those who were taking part in the sports. They seemed to be highly pleased with themselves, and whenever they noticed that one laughed at their jokes, they did the laughing themselves. They did not miss the opportunity of bumping against their officers, and altogether, they did full justice to their position as clowns of the occasion.

13th inst.

The above sports were resumed this afternoon at 2 p.m. Yesterday's events and results after we had gone to press were:—

One Mile. Prizes, \$1, \$3, \$1. Open to Royal Navy and European Garrison and Police.

1. Lance-Corp. Dellow.

2. Pte. Clegg.

3. Pte. McPherson (Camerons).

Sack Race. Prizes, \$5, \$3, \$2, \$1.

1. Gr. Brown.

2. Gr. Scarf.

3. Gr. Williams.

Putting the Weight. Prizes, \$3, \$4, \$2.

1. Bomb. M'Leod.

2. Gr. Kerrick.

3. Gr. Pluck.

Quarter Mile, R.G.A. Prizes, \$12, \$8, \$4, \$2.

1. Gr. Thomas.

2. Bomb. Macfarlane.

3. Gr. Evans. 4. Gr. Greenwood.

Team Race. Prizes, \$16, \$8. (Open to any team of four from any native company of Garrison.)

1. A. Coy. 13th Rajputs.

2. G. Coy. 15th Rajputs.

In the tug-of-war contest, the D. Company, Cameron Highlanders beat the G. Company, Middlesex Regiment. In the second round, G. Coy. beat 88 Coy. The D. Coy. Camerons beat the H. Coy. Camerons, which was a splendid effort.

Mile. Prizes, \$15, \$10, \$5.

1. Gr. Evans (5 mins.)

2. Gr. Kerrick.

LOCAL AND GENERAL

FROM Sunday, 15th instant, retreat will sound at 6.30 p.m.

THE Bank of England rate of discount has further gone down to 3½ per cent, last Monday.

LIEUTENANT C. Ryley, R. A. M. Corps, having returned from leave of absence on 6th instant, the unexpired portion, viz., 6th and 7th instant, is cancelled.

MR. VON ZEPPELIN, who has been, up till now, acting Dutch Consul-General at Shanghai, has been raised to the rank of a full Consul-General.

HIS Excellency the Governor has been pleased to accept the resignation by and Lieutenant F. O. Reynolds of his Commission in the Hongkong Volunteer Corps.

ONE hundred and thirty-three candidates (seven of whom are girls) have paid entrance fees for the Oxford Local Examination to be held next July. Last year there were 104.

We have received a large and finely illustrated chart of the tourist trips in the Mediterranean arranged by the Norddeutscher Lloyd, for which Messrs. Melchers and Co. are the local agents.

DR. W. W. Pearce, Assistant Medical Officer of Health, will act as Medical Officer of Health and Superintendent of Statistics, during the absence on leave of Dr. F. W. Clark, with effect from the 9th instant.

THE Japanese Government is determined to maintain a strong attitude with reference to the Chinese Mining Regulations and it will not recognize their validity, even if China intended to bring them into force on date fixed.

A COOLIE, Pun Shing, who admitted stealing fourteen bull's-eye lamps from a hawk on board the Canton steamer *Paul Beau*, last Wednesday night, got six weeks' hard labour and four hours' stocks, on Thursday morning, at the Police Court.

ANOTHER fifty members of the House of Representatives belonging to the Ministerial party of the Seiyukai have organized themselves with a view to attack Count Hayashi, Minister of Foreign Affairs. They include directors of foreign companies.

BARON DE SENDAL, Portuguese Minister to the Courts of Tokio and Peking, arrived at Shanghai from Japan on 6th inst., by the Empress of India and is staying at the Hotel des Colonies. Baron de Sendal will leave for the North in a few days.

A TSINGTAU despatch of 3rd inst. says—S.M.S. *Arcona* and the torpedo-boat *S.9* have returned from South-West Promontory, where they endeavoured to capture the stranded steamer *Chingsing*. But all efforts have been in vain; the ship is apparently a total loss.

AGENTS, managers, secretaries, and other officers of companies carrying on life insurance business within this Colony are requested to communicate with the Registrar of Companies without delay with a view to compliance with the Life Insurance Companies Ordinance, 1907.

WE learn from a Tokyo dispatch to the *Osaka Mainichi*, that the Yokohama Specie Bank, which has reduced the terms of bills on shipments of raw cotton from America to 60 days and from that India to 30 days, now contemplates reducing the term of bills on shipments from London to 60 days (now 30 days).

A SERIES of lectures to ladies on "Home Nursing" will be given by Dr. W. V. M. Koch, under the auspices of the St. John Ambulance Association in St. Paul's College, on Fridays at 5.30 p.m. The first lecture will be given on Friday, 13th March, 1908. An attendance fee of \$2 will be charged for the purpose of defraying incidental expenses.

A REGULATION of the Governor-in-Council renders necessary that all arms or ammunition kept or stored in the Colony or being moved thereto by any importer or dealer in or vendor of arms or ammunition, if in boxes or closed packages, must have the number or quantity contained therein clearly marked on the outside of each box or package in English.

At a meeting of shareholders and subscribers of St. John's Cathedral, held on the 28th January, 1908, the following were elected Lay Members of the Church Body, for the year 1908:—The Honourable Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Messrs. W. Armstrong, Beyer (honorary secretary), H. B. Hancock (honorary treasurer), E. Ornstein, and H. W. Slade. Mr. J. C. Peter was elected auditor.

IN view of the rumours to the effect that large quantities of copper coins are being smuggled into the country from abroad, the Central Government has instructed the Tacta of Customs along the coast to exercise strict supervision over all the steamers coming from foreign countries. The various viceroys and governors have also been requested to prohibit the underhand striking of coins for circulation.

A CHINESE woman, who attempted to commit suicide at Yau-ma-ti about a month ago, by cutting her throat with a knife, was called upon to give an explanation at the Police Court, on the 13th inst.—The accused pleaded guilty to the charge, and stated that she attempted to take her life because she had had a quarrel with her husband. The magistrate (Mr. Goimont) bound her over in the sum of \$100 to be of good behaviour for a year.

ONE hundred pounds of beef went missing from a stall in the Central Market early this morning (9th inst.). Suspicion fell on a coolie, named Chau Tim, a man of no occupation or no fixed place of abode, who disappeared from the market at about the same time as the meat. Investigations resulted in Chau's arrest. He was charged at the Police Court this morning, when he was given a change of diet for six weeks, also your hours in the stocks.

POLICEMAN O'CONNOR, of the Water Police Station, arraigned a boatman named Mak Shing, before Mr. F. A. Hazelton, in the Police Court, last Thursday, and charged him with being in possession of three muskets, twelve pounds of powder and two boxes of percussion caps without a permit. The biffy was found hidden on board defendant's junk, while the police were in search of opium. Defendant pleaded guilty, and was fined \$150. The alternative was six months' gaol.

Mr. and Mrs. Somersett Playne left yesterday for Shanghai, in which port Lloyd's Greater British Publishing Co., Ltd., have been at work for some two or three months. The editorial staff are preparing to leave in a week's time, the work of compilation in Hongkong being now almost complete. During their stay in Hongkong Mr. and Mrs. Somersett Playne provided a great social acquisition to the Colony, and their many friends will regret their departure. At Shanghai it is possible they may find wider scope for their undoubted harmonic abilities, but they cannot be more generally appreciated than they have been in Hongkong.

A TOKIO despatch of 7th inst. to the *N. C. D. News* says—Subsequent reports of the collision at Yokohama between the N. Y. K. S. *Yawata*, Maru and the M. M. S. *T. 7* show that the former vessel did not run down the *Tokio* but merely struck her.

THIRTY-SIX undesirables—men who had refused to pay their poll tax at Salmon, and were deported—arrived in the Colony yesterday morning, by the steamer *T. 7* *Sang*. They were arrested by the police on landing, and, yesterday afternoon, were "passed on" to their homes at Canton, Swatow and Amoy.

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AT the election of Councillors for the British Municipal Council Extension at Tientsin, the following names were nominated; the first three being duly elected viz.—Messrs. W. E. Southcott, W. A. Morling, C. R. Morling, G. T. Edkins, G. W. Sheppard, E. G. Adams, F. Sommer, H. D. Summers, and J. Stewart. Messrs. Robert Colman, Jr., Rev. F. Drysdale, and J. Travers Smith.

IT is notified in the *Gazette* that the names of the following companies have been struck off the register:—The Canton and Hongkong Tug Lighter and Ferry Company, Limited; the The Oil Insurance Exchange and Loan Company, Limited; the Oriental Construction Company, Limited; the Woosung Forts Launch Company, Limited; and the Chinadah Steam Navigation Company, Limited.

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SHARE QUOTATIONS.

Supplied by Messrs. E. S. Kadoorie & Co. Corrected to noon; later alterations given under "Commercial Intelligence," page 5.

STOCKS.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE	PAID UP	POSITION AS PER LAST REPORT RESERVE	AT WORKING ACCOUNT	LAST DIVIDEND	APPROXIMATE PERCENT QUOTATION. BASED ON LAST STOCK DIV.	CLOSING QUOTATIONS.
BANKS.								
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation	120,000	\$155	\$125	\$1,100,000 \$150,000 \$250,000	\$2,900,357	Final of 5½ on old and 5½ 10/- on new shares for 4 years ending 31.12.07	5½ %	\$360 sales London £75.10.
MARINE INSURANCES.								
Canton Insurance Office, Limited	10,000	\$250	\$50	\$1,160,000 \$401,059 \$125,000	\$2,100	3½ (London 3/6) for 1907	...	\$52
North China Insurance Company, Limited	10,000	\$15	\$5	\$1,100,000 \$18,912	Tls. 204,424	Final of 7½ per share making in all 15½ for 1906—Tls. 2.65	6 %	\$240
Chop Insurance Society of Canton, Limited	12,400	\$250	\$100	\$1,100,000 \$245,407 \$17,175	\$1,460,490	Final of 5½ making \$42 for 1905 and Interim of \$3½ for 1906	5 %	\$840
Yangtze Insurance Association, Limited Do. do. (new)	8,000 4,000	\$100 \$100	\$50 \$50	\$150,143 \$1,988 \$1,000,000	Tls. 304,520	5½ for year ending 31.12.07	...	\$152 \$140 buyers
China Fire Insurance Company, Limited	20,000	\$100	\$50	\$1,100,000 \$345,007 \$13,922	\$1,571,432	4½ and bonus 5½ for 1906	9 %	\$89
Hongkong Fire Insurance Company, Limited	8,000	\$250	\$50	\$1,100,000 \$20,000	Tls. 228,027	27. 19.6	88 %	\$300
SHIPPING.								
China and Manilla Steamship Company, Limited	30,000	\$25	\$25	\$1,100,000 \$204,638	\$305	11. 11. 1906	...	\$130
Douglas Steamship Company, Limited	20,000	\$50	\$50	\$1,100,000 \$250,000	Nil.	34 for year ending 30.4.1907	10 %	\$40
Hongkong, Canton & Macao Steamboat Co. Ltd.	90,000	\$15	\$15	\$1,100,000 \$60,000 \$20,000	Tls. 16,437	5½ or 2nd half-year making in all \$2½ for year ending 31.12.07	28 %	\$280 buyers
Indo-China Steam Navigation Co., Ltd. (Preferred) Do. do. (Deferred)	60,000 60,000	\$5	\$5	\$1,100,000 \$270,000	\$3,694	5½ for 1906 @ ex 2/2—\$2.24 per share	31 %	\$359 \$327
Shanghai Tug and Lighter Company, Limited Do. do. (Preference)	200,000 100,000	Tls. 50 Tls. 50	Tls. 50 Tls. 50	\$1,100,000 \$400,000	Tls. 14,510	Final of Tls. 14 making Tls. 3½ for 1907	7½ %	\$145 \$140
Shell Transport and Trading Company, Limited	100,000	\$10	\$10	\$1,100,000 \$1,871 \$65,000	Tls. 17,370	Interim of 1½ (Coupon No. 8) for 1st half 1907 \$10.00 in year ending 30.4.1907	48 %	45% \$20 buyers \$13 buyers
Star Ferry Company, Limited	10,000 10,000	\$10 \$10	\$10 \$10	\$1,100,000 \$1,080,000	Tls. 18,730	Final of Tls. 2 making Tls. 6 for 1906	12½ %	\$147 buyers
REFINERIES.								
China Sugar Refining Company, Limited	20,000	\$100	\$100	\$1,100,000 \$450,000	Tls. 19,218	48 for year ending 31.12.06	...	\$110
Luzon Sugar Refining Company, Limited	7,000 7,000	\$100 \$100	\$100 \$100	\$1,100,000 \$1,100,000	Tls. 8,935	1. 1. 1907 Tls. 4 (8%) for year ending 31.8.06	5 %	\$15 sales Tls. 80 sellers
MINING.								
Chinese Engineering and Mining Company, Ltd.	1,000,000							